



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Ad Man Pitches 'Only in San Francisco' Museum

Bob Pritikin Gives a Preview of
His Chenery House Dream

By Corrie M. Anders

Bob Pritikin, a true bon vivant and ad man who made a fortune in the 1950s with his Rice-a-Roni jingle, has come up with another bright idea.

Pritikin wants to create a museum called Only in San Francisco, showcasing the fine art and Baghdad-by-the-Bay memorabilia he has amassed over four decades, with an estimated value of 30 million. The museum would be located not in Golden Gate Park or in the downtown arts district, but in Chenery House, the Hollywood-style mansion in which Pritikin has lived for the past 25 years.

However, to turn his house into a museum, the art collector will need a special permit from the Planning Department. And that may entail a little persuading at City Hall.

So, it could take some time before the paying public will get to view Pritikin's Benny Bufano sculptures, his prized J.M.W. Turner oil painting, or a 1781 document signed by John Hancock—not to mention a blue neon moose head and a mural of topless star Carol Doda riding a zebra.

To head off anticipated public worries that a museum on Chenery Street will cause traffic and noise problems, Pritikin in April began taking his Glen Park and Noe Valley neighbors, as well as local

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Where the Sidewalk Ends... Perhaps Not Where You Think

By Lorraine Sanders

Why do we park in a driveway and drive on a parkway? If you think that automotive conundrum is confusing, then it's safe to say you probably don't reside along the 300 block of Clipper Street in Noe Valley, where a group of residents is having trouble understanding why they've been hit with \$100 tickets for parking vehicles in their own driveways.

"We were shocked," said Theresa Fay-Bustillos, recalling the first of two tickets she received in January on a car she'd parked in her driveway on Clipper almost daily for the past nine years.

In talking with her neighbors, Fay-Bustillos discovered she wasn't alone. Residents up and down the block claimed they also were receiving tickets for parking in their driveways, after years of doing so without consequence.

The reason? California state law pro-



City lover Robert Pritikin wants to turn his art-filled mansion on Chenery Street into a museum, offering public tours for groups of 20.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

Play the Quest—for Fun and Prizes!

By Heather World

Think you know your valley? A trio of local merchants is betting there are still some hidden nooks you'll find in a neighborhood scavenger hunt they're holding called the Noe Valley Quest.

The game is the brainchild of Gwen Sanderson, Erik Mantsch, and Malcolm Haar, owners of Video Wave, Just Awesome! (the board game store), and Cooks Boulevard, respectively.

During the month of May, players can pick up the Quest "game piece"—a list of 24 questions—at participating neighborhood businesses, or they can tear it out of the *Voice* (see page 4). Answers turned in by May 31 will be put in a drawing for a barrel of prizes, to be awarded at a party in mid-June.

The Quest sends hunters from one side

of Noe Valley to the other and along paths they might not normally travel. That's the point, says Haar—to uncover the secrets of the neighborhood.

"A lot of people live here or work here but don't know all that Noe Valley has to offer," Haar said.

Meeting weekly for coffee to discuss the project, the three merchants (with early help from Fima Gelman) hashed out ideas for questions—should the quiz be about obscure history? Facts about neighborhood stores?—but they settled on exploring the urban landscape.

Mantsch, an expert on fun and games, came up with most of the questions.

"They're about community places," Mantsch said. "Also, you're out in the neighborhood, so you'll see other things,"

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Reports of a rash of ticketing may soon banish these cars from a 29th Street sidewalk. State law forbids parking from the building to the curb.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

hibits parking on any portion of the sidewalk. Problem is, on some San Francisco streets, the driveways and sidewalks appear to be one and the same.

"The sidewalk is defined as any portion from the property line to the outside of the curb. The purpose of it [the law] is to

make sure there's unimpeded access for pedestrians," explains Judson True of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA).

Far from being just another nuisance of

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Noe Valley Remembers Paolo Dominici

Bacco Owner's Death in Hawaii
A Shock to Staff, Customers

By Steve Steinberg

A spearfishing accident in Hawaii last month tragically claimed the life of Paolo Dominici, owner of Bacco Ristorante, the popular Italian restaurant at 737 Diamond Street. Dominici, 49, was on a family vacation with his wife, Shari, and 10-year-old daughter Isabella at the time.

Although Bacco remained open following the news of Dominici's death, friends, employees, and restaurant patrons mourned his passing.

"Noe Valley has lost a great restaurateur," said Gene Ginsberg, owner of PastaGina, an Italian food store located next door to Bacco. Ginsberg had been friends with Dominici and his wife for over 16 years.

"He was very kind, generous.... He had a certain honesty you don't find with other people," Ginsberg said. He and Dominici would often share a glass of wine after work and talk about their respective

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Farmers Markets Sprouting Like... Sprouts

By Corrie M. Anders

The arrival of two new farmers market venues will provide Noe Valley residents with several summer opportunities to put organic and locally grown produce on the table.

Organizers who established the Noe Valley Farmers' Market on 24th Street five years ago after the Real Food grocery closed have added a second day and location in Noe Valley—at least temporarily.

Starting May 5, the new market will be in operation every Tuesday, from 3 to 7 p.m., in the parking lot of the former Bell

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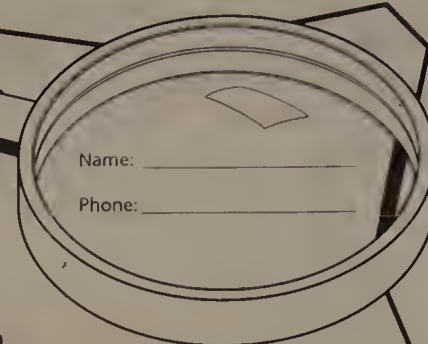
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Explore Noe Valley and win prizes
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Official rules can
be found at
NoeValleyQuest.com



Complete this game piece before May 31st and drop off at any participating merchant for a chance to win prizes valued \$50 - \$250.

1. Considered to be Noe Valley's western border _____ Avenue is a sight for sore eyes.
2. There's no hurry, once you unscramble, you can walk them to get to this place...
UDGSYBNORJ = _____
3. Mailing your postal carrier a letter? Find this address over their entrance:
_____ 24th Street
4. This is the number of white pillars surrounding James' playground: # _____
5. Discover this number in red next to the secret garden at Alvarado: # _____
6. Which "hush, hush" public building is found on Jersey St. between Diamond & Castro:
a. FBI Field Office b. Public Library: Noe Valley Branch c. NVBI HQ
7. You can park then play a 32 red and 32 black square game resting on a table made of this lucky number of wood pieces: # _____
8. It is the sum of where the Noe meets the Valley: a. 2850 b. 2300 c. 1950
9. What covers an underground passage you'll find as you climb the stairs at the end of Valley St. up to Diamond: _____
10. Race to the converted Fire Engine House on 22nd St. and identify the Engine # _____
11. Amount of tables by the basketball court in Upper Noe Recreation Center. # _____
12. You may have to uncover the truth about our Noe Valley bulletin board:
a. Neighborhood News & Events / Local News & Events
b. Neighborhood News & Events / City-wide News & Events
c. Local News & Events / City-wide News & Events
13. At Clipper & Sanchez count an unlucky number of steps leading to a red door. # _____
14. A trapezoid is inside an octagon inside the playground inside _____ Park
15. A lot for farmers has spaces for those who share, for those with less than 11 minutes, and these ordained members of the community. _____
16. Where a film like "nun" other took place, you'll find a cornerstone with this number carved: a. 1650 b. 221 c. 1900
17. What wooden animal will you find watching behind 4201 23rd Street near Diamond rain or shine? _____
18. A San Francisco native, and an official landmark, it's this type of tree that lives on 23rd St. _____ Oak (Check the Noe Valley Voice archives for the facts.)
19. Once a local quarry, now a park, you'll find a mosaic that faces the rising sun. Tabulate the corners to total: a. 17 b. 28 c. 9
20. The corner across the street from where the north bound train exits Noe Valley, find a rusty pole, shaped like this: _____
21. Investigate the small section of Cesar Chavez St., it holds a wonderful eastern view and a white hydrant with this number: # _____
22. Where Noe Valley School once was, name two of the three courts you'll find:
_____ & _____
23. _____ lions guard the house you'll find at 4128 23rd Street.
24. Ask any participating merchant and you'll find out when and where the prizes will be given out. When: June __th @ __: __ pm Where: _____

Visit these participating merchants to view prizes and get hints to help you on your quest!

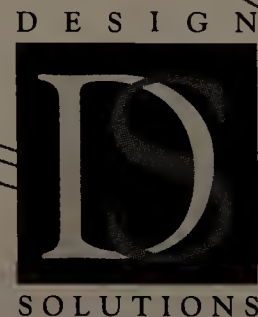
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Special Thanks to Bill Yenne and his book San Francisco's Noe Valley and NoeValleyVoice.com • Game piece designed by Scotty: www.scottymbaldwin.com

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Missy Wyant Smit (415) 321-4315
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129 Yukon Street



Charming Detached Home With Many Eco-friendly Features. This 3BD/1BA, 3 car fully-detached home was remodeled with many eco-friendly features and is zoned for 2nd unit. Surrounded by verdant greenery it was featured in Sunset Magazine & Green From The Ground Up.

Offered at \$899,000
Ron Sebahar (415) 321-4295

269 Parnassus



Lovely, upper level, full-floor flat in a two-unit Edwardian building has been impeccably maintained and is in move-in condition. Perfectly located in the heart of Cole Valley, it is within a quick walk to UCSF, Cole Street shops and restaurants. 2BD/1BA plus garage parking for 1 car, and leased parking for 2nd.

Offered at \$899,000
Grace Shohet (415) 321-4248

673 3rd Avenue



Located in vibrant Inner Richmond, this spacious flat in a two unit building has been beautifully remodeled. There are three bedrooms, two remodeled bathrooms with marble surfaces, a large remodeled kitchen with granite counters, a dining room and living room.

Offered at \$819,000
Michelle Long (415) 321-4227

1146 Florida St



Beautiful Mission Renovation! This gorgeous Victorian has been graciously renovated to preserve its original details while blending in lovely modern elements & conveniences. Features foyer; formal living room; formal dining room with redwood moldings. 2BD/1BA. Big garage.

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Natalie Pelc (415) 407-8041

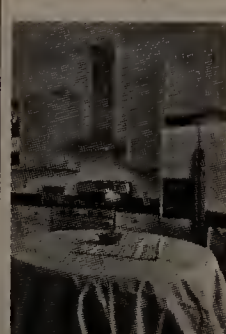
1258 6th Avenue



Gorgeous spacious Edwardian 3BD/1BA Top Floor flat with living room, remodeled kitchen with granite/stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors, decorative fireplace, gracious details, newer windows, views, 6 months leased parking, Family and pet friendly.

Offered at \$649,000
Ron Wong (415) 321-4368
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1667 Fulton Street, #A



Fabulous Unit On Fantastic Street This is a 2BD/1BA condo, not a TIC! Part of a rear two unit building, it has been extensively remodeled with a stylish kitchen and a large bathroom with tub and separate shower stall. Wood floors and sound proofing between upper and lower units. Leased parking.

Offered at \$549,000
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Noe Valley Office Agents: We'd be delighted to talk to you about properties in this neighborhood!



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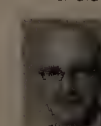
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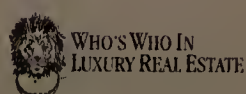
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The Definition of Liberal

Editor:

I cannot begin to tell you how pleased I was to see the Obama shrine finally removed from Just for Fun's window on 24th Street ["Obama Candle Raises the Ire of Local Priest," February 2009 *Voice*]. I found it offensive the first day I saw it, back in December.

There are many people who have great faith and dedication to St. Martin de Porres, and the Obama novena candles mocked their beliefs. I have shopped in that store from the very beginning and seen their nuns with boxing gloves and other displays, but they were generic; an individual was not singled out. This time the store went too far. Catholics may pray for the president, but not to him.

I have to laugh at the fallacy put out that Noe Valley is so liberal. I find a liberal is someone who may not agree on a

LETTERS 42¢

lot of points but who is basically open-minded. Noe Valley has become a very close-minded bigoted group that does not accept anyone who might disagree with them. Even the comments printed in your paper stand up to that. A letter in the March issue asks the question, would the Obama candles offend Jesus? I think they would, especially when they hurt others.

I also have a problem with the candles themselves. The designer, Johnny Oliver, actually stole the design from the original candles and put the president's face on it. Is that exactly honest? Are there any copyright laws protecting the novena candles from this "candle of hope"?

When are priests not allowed free speech? Father Tony LaTorre saw something that offended him and took a stand by printing it in his bulletin to let his parishioners know. The decision to shop at the store was still theirs. He didn't threaten anyone with excommunication! He didn't call down a plague or pestilence on a novelty store. He was accused of being hateful, bigoted, sinister, mean-spirited, and bizarre. Way to go, liberals!

As for Father Tony's quote about the owners of Just for Fun being Jewish, in all honesty I don't believe it was anti-Semitic. I am not anti-Semitic, by any means, but have always assumed they were Jewish—because of their window displays. Over the years, they have always displayed Hanukkah items and Passover plates—but never any Nativity scenes or crèches, to my knowledge—and that didn't stop me from shopping there or bringing out-of-town friends in.

Mullaney Brown

Dogs on a Tight Leash

Editor:

I am writing in reference to James Deveny's letter "Loose Dogs Can Be Deadly" in the April 2009 issue.

I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Deveny's point of view regarding loose dogs in Noe Valley. The simple truth is there is no good argument for allowing dogs to walk off leash on our city sidewalks.

I am the owner of a dog who certainly does not enjoy being pestered by off-leash dogs, which creates a liability for me if my dog were to attack a poorly controlled animal.

While the vast majority of off-leash dogs are harmless, dog owners who let their dogs run loose only exacerbate the self-entitled perception of Noe Valley and do very little to create community within the neighborhood.

Sean Brennan
Clipper Street

WE NEED GLASSES

In an item in April's Rumors column, the *Voice* misspelled the name of a designer now sharing space with Lisa Violette at 3932 24th Street. The correct spelling of the name of the creator of Successories jewelry is Pamela Wiston-Charbonneau. In that same Rumors column, we printed the wrong address for Glare, the eyewear store that recently reopened at 4010 24th Street, near Noe Street. We apologize for the errors.

Mostly Good Eggs

Editor:

Thanks to so many volunteers, we had a fun and successful second annual Easter Egg Hunt at Douglass Playground. Around \$1,700 was raised to help pay for our colorful hanging flower baskets on 24th Street.

Only one bad thing happened: a volunteer donated two dozen eggs to color—we had around 12 dozen—but didn't boil the eggs! We would not have known it, except for an egg drop by a little girl in her Easter finery.

For that mishap, I sincerely apologize, and I hope no other Easter outfit was ruined when an egg was opened.

Any suggestions or requests for next year would be welcome.

B.J. Droubi

www.droubiteam.com

Excusez-Nous

Editor:

Regarding the photo in your amusing April Fool's edition, is the mother supposed to be saying, "Hurry, Henry"? If so, I think it should be "Dépêche-toi, Henri."

Amitiés,

Leslie Wellbaum

Incident on Muni

Letter-writer R. La Rose asked the Voice to publish a complaint letter she wrote to Muni last month. The reprint contains minor editing.

To Whom This May Concern at Muni management:

When I entered the J-Church streetcar at 9:05 a.m. on April 1 at Church and 24th streets, the car was, as usual at that hour, overcrowded. All seats were taken and the aisles were filled with passengers standing and pressed against each other.

That morning, there was also a group of around 15 very small schoolchildren (around 5 or 6 years old) and three teachers accompanying them on a field trip. Some children were seated, and some were standing and trying to stay upright.

There was also a young girl, around 16 or 17 years old, who was taking all three

seats in the line of vertical seats marked "Reserved for seniors and people with disabilities." She was sitting on one seat and had her duffle bag across the next two seats. I very politely asked her if she would move her bag so two people could sit down. She said, "No." I asked her again and she told me, "F--k off." I asked her a third time and told her that I would remove her bag if she didn't do it herself. I reminded her that this was public transportation and that everyone on the streetcar had paid the same fare to enter and that she didn't have the right to take three seats. I reminded her that these seats were reserved for seniors and people with disabilities. She told me to "f--k off" again. I reached down to move her bag and when I did so, she stood up and very forcefully slapped me in the face, knocking off my glasses. I'm 60 years old and the surprise and force of her slap knocked me down. She then proceeded to curse at me, calling me a "f--king bitch" and several other things. Several other passengers tried to calm her down. She continued to yell at me, and when she got off the streetcar at the Church and 18th Street stop, she spit in my face and on my jacket and cursed me again. I watched as she started to walk toward Mission High School on the other side of the street from the Muni stop, so I assume that she is a student there.

When I arrived at the Montgomery Street station, I told the Muni worker in the ticket booth what had happened. She called the SFPD, and I told them what had happened. They said they couldn't do anything if I didn't know the girl's name. They took down a report and suggested that I call Mission High School to report the incident to the principal there. I did this, but again I was told that unless I could identify the girl, they could not do anything.

My question is, why aren't there Muni guards riding on the J-Church line, especially during the times when Mission High School students are going to and from school? Other passengers on the J-Church told me this was not the first incident that had occurred with students from Mission High. My feeling is that Muni is responsible to ensure that their paying passengers, especially seniors, are safe from harassment and physical violence while on public transportation.

One thing that would surely help is to put more streetcars on the J-Church line. At rush hour in the morning, when the streetcar arrives at 24th and Church, it is often full, even though it's near the beginning of the line. Extra cars on this line at peak times would greatly help to solve this problem.

R. La Rose
Noe Valley resident

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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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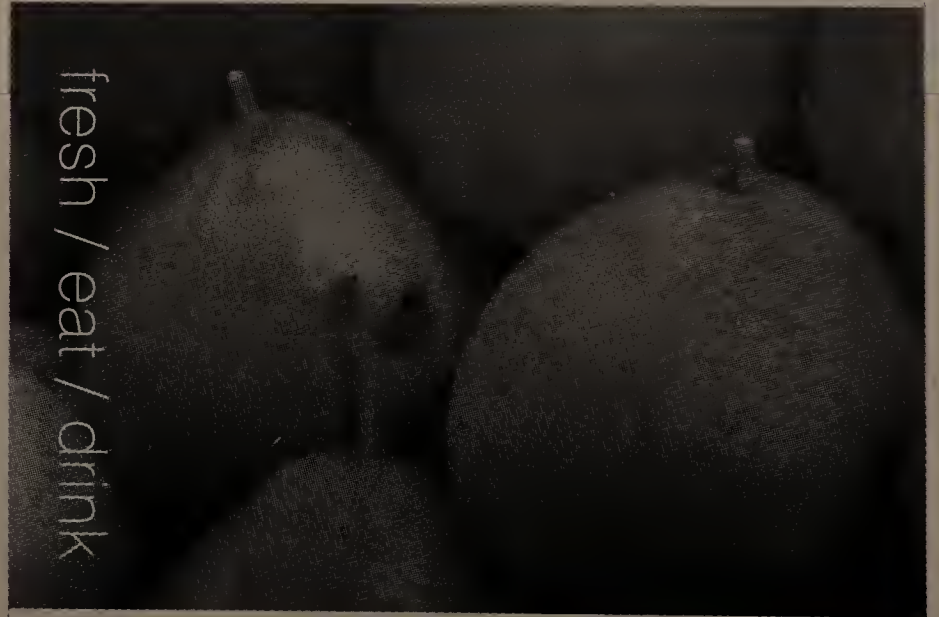


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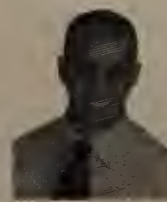


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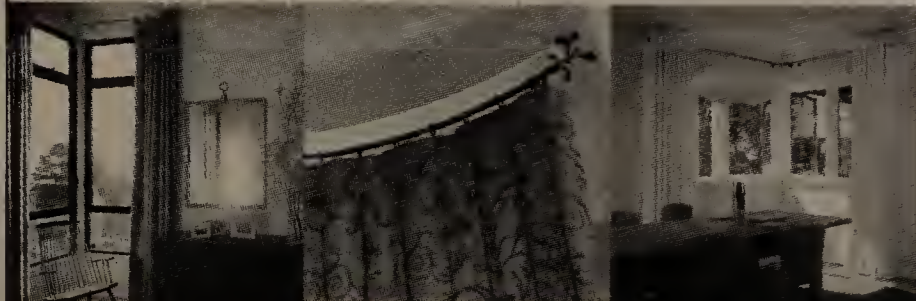
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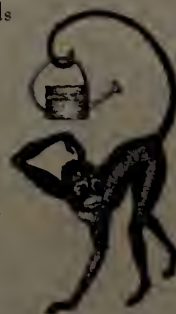
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Museum Planned For Chenery House

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

civic groups, on mini-tours of the residence.

Pritikin promised his guests that the Only in San Francisco Museum, should it win approval, would be a low-key affair. He would limit the docent-led tours to two hours and to a single group of 20 people a day, he said. The museum would be open six days a week, and the \$49-per-person ticket price would include a light Mexican lunch. All cars would be parked on the Chenery House grounds, which currently has off-street space for 12 vehicles.

Right now the mansion at 47 Chenery Street, a half block from 30th Street, is nearly invisible to the public. It is landlocked between rows of single-family homes on Chenery and Dolores streets and flanked by Fairmount Elementary School to the south and On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center on the north.

"Between On Lok and the school, there's a thousand people a day here," said Pritikin. "So here I am in the middle, sandwiched between these activities, and I [only] want to add 20 people. It's an innocuous thing."

One of the reasons he wants to open the museum is because the mansion drains cash, he said. He could make good use of the funds the museum would bring in—about \$300,000 a year if the tours were fully subscribed.

"I need the income to keep this place alive," he said. "This place costs a few hundred thousand a year just to keep the lawn mowed and the repairs and what have you. I don't have an outside income that's adequate to sustain this. I'm not trying to make any money on it. But I have a staff of people...that I have to pay."

Wooing the Neighbors

Pritikin also pitched his dream to 30 or so residents attending an April 23 meeting of Upper Noe Neighbors at the Upper Noe Recreation Center on Day Street. After showing a 10-minute video on the mansion, he was peppered with questions about whether the museum would attract tour buses "coming from downtown hotels," whether he had plans to expand, and whether publicity about his vast collection would attract criminals.

Pritikin assured the group that traffic limitations and expansion prohibitions would be written into the request for a conditional use permit he would seek later this year. And he said he wasn't worried about crime. "I've been there for 25 years, and we've never had any invasion," said Pritikin.

He promised to conduct bilingual tours and make the mansion available for charitable fundraising events—and most people in the audience appeared to embrace the museum concept.

Thirtieth Street resident Debra Singer said the museum would be a perfect venue for fundraisers that "could benefit the community" and give visitors an extraordinary look at San Francisco.

"When you're in that facility, it makes you feel like you're in a special place..."



A spiral staircase leads to a capacious second floor, filled with an assortment of paintings, sculptures, and memorabilia. This level is where museum guests would enjoy a Mexican lunch while sitting beneath a \$100,000 crystal chandelier.

Photos by Beverly Sharp



Four towering stained-glass windows salvaged from the razed Little Church of the Poor richly illuminate the Olympic-style swimming pool on the top floor of the mansion.

San Francisco in the movies," Singer said. "It feels like it's right out of the thirties."

The project may also have the support of Supervisor Bevan Dufty. His legislative aide, Boe Hayward, said Dufty was "was intrigued by the possibility and wanted to hear from the neighborhood."

"I think there was a positive reception," Hayward said after the meeting. "It's a good start for Bob...a good start toward the possibility."

Ad Career Financed Collection

Pritikin started to collect art and San Francisco-themed mementos after achieving huge success as an advertising writer. In addition to the Rice-a-Roni jingle, his portfolio includes TV commercials for Marine World and Folger's Coffee. He also wrote *Christ Was an Ad Man*, a self-help guide for retailers and entrepreneurs.

He originally kept his art collection at the Mansion Hotel, his upscale bed-and-breakfast in Pacific Heights where he also performed as a magician. Pritikin shut down the hotel after a zoning clash with the city "caused me to throw in the towel," and in the early 1980s found a quiet parcel on the north slope of Glen Park where he built a home with five bedrooms and seven baths and a separate building with four apartments.

Pritikin, at 79 as glib as ever, is still selling. He claims not to know the size of his domain on Chenery, once the back yard of a turn-of-the-century laundry, where workers hung clothes outside to dry.

"Oh, I don't know," he said, "but I have reason to believe it's the largest private estate in the city of San Francisco."

Enough Eye Candy for Everyone

On a sunny day in mid-April, Pritikin took Vicki Rosen, president of Upper Noe Neighbors; group board members Marianne Hampton and Olga Milan-Howells; and a *Voice* reporter and photographer on a private tour to show them what the public could expect.



During a tour he hosted for his neighbors in April, Bob Pritikin stopped at a piano in a restful corner within Chenery House.

"There's a lot of eye candy here," said Pritikin.

And indeed there was. After unlocking two separate sets of gates, Pritikin led his guests to a huge Joseph Carmichael mural depicting some 60 famous and infamous San Franciscans, including columnist Herb Caen, former mayors Dianne Feinstein and Willie Brown, bare-chested Carol Doda, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, straddling the back of an elephant. The mural is also educational, said Pritikin, pointing out a fortune cookie, chop suey, slot machines, and an emblem of the United Nations as "some of the inventions and innovations that came out of San Francisco."

A pathway led through manicured, park-like grounds, sprinkled with a menagerie of 15 to 20 life-size bronze animals. The path is rigged so that lions roar and elephants trumpet as one passes by. The front lawn includes an assortment of sculptures, including a kinetic fire tree

that once blazed at Burning Man and Barbara Willenborg's six-foot work of a golden *Heart of San Francisco*.

The mansion itself is a two-story architectural marvel—half Romanesque, half southern plantation. Over the years, Carol Channing, Mickey Rooney, Eddie Fisher, and Tammy Faye Messner have been among Pritikin's houseguests. The home also has been the venue for hundreds of weddings and an annual Labor Day party, where up to 1,000 politicians, socialites, and non-celebrities mingle jovially.

A Penthouse Swimming Pool

Inside, seemingly every square inch of wall and floor space is crammed with paintings, sculpture, period furniture, and one-of-a-kind San Francisco souvenirs.

A "magnificent" grand staircase, which Pritikin said he designed in half an hour, spirals up to a penthouse swimming pool that would be right at home at San Simeon castle. The focal point of the pool is a wall of arched stained-glass windows. Pritikin said he salvaged the 25-foot-tall panels from the Little Sisters of the Poor Church on Geary Street after it was deemed seismically unfit and demolished.

"I had the pool designed around the panels," Pritikin said about the loft, which has a retractable roof.

Placed around the house are red buttons that museum guests can press to hear audio narratives about important art works in the immediate vicinity. One audio describes a massive 18-by-12-foot oil painting that is a copy of *Nightwatch*, Rembrandt's 1652 masterpiece. The 1851 Johann Antonie Stroebel replica was commissioned to hang in Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum while the original was being restored, and it was later displayed during World War II.

"That's when the Nazis were plundering the great art of Europe, and [the museum] put it up again as a decoy. I don't like to call it a copy because it has its own personal history," said Pritikin, who valued the painting in the millions of dollars.

Red-Button Revelations

Other red buttons describe a William Keith oil painting of cattle grazing, accompanied with a mooing cow, and *Ancient City, Venice*, reputed to be an 1810 canvass by J.M.W. Turner. Art historians are studying the painting, and the conclusion so far is that "it's a real Turner," said Pritikin, noting that a Turner painting sold at auction earlier this year for \$13 million.

There's a Bufano wing with marble animal sculptures, a gallery of mayoral portraits by artist Jeremy Sutton, a \$100,000 crystal chandelier above a dining room table, a 12-foot "saw tree" (Pritikin is an accomplished classical musician on the carpenter saw), and an alcove filled with framed George Washington and John Hancock documents.

Pritikin's collection also includes paraphernalia from his Squished Eyeball Theater, a painting of England's Prince Philip with small plants growing out of his right hand and a fly on his shoulder, a model of the Transamerica Pyramid made with hundreds of Old Glory condom boxes, and a quilt created from Barbie-doll shower caps.

The quilt is "really quite exquisite and took some lady her whole life to make," said Pritikin. "I was walking down the street and there was a garage sale and I bought it for \$5."

Pritikin, who once offered the mansion to the city as a mayoral home, said he could quickly open the museum if he landed the necessary permits.

"There will be no negative impact on the neighborhood," Pritikin reiterated. "The only thing we provide is beauty."

"I think it's a great idea...a fascinating place," said Rosen. "Certainly there's nothing else like it."

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Friends Grieve for Paolo Dominici

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

businesses. "We could depend on each other," Ginsberg added. "We did things for one another. He could come over and borrow five pounds of sugar, and we never worried about getting it back. When my wife was recovering from an illness, Paolo cooked a special meal for her at his restaurant and wouldn't let us pay for it."

Luca Zanet, the manager of Bacco, said Dominici's death was a total shock. "I couldn't believe it; it was unreal." Zanet had worked for Dominici for 14 years and viewed him more as a friend than a boss. "Our kids played together, we had family barbeques together," he said. He termed Dominici, who lived in the Sunset District, "a very nice man to work for. He was soft-mannered and hardly ever got upset."

According to Zanet, Dominici took his family to Hawaii every spring for a vacation and always went spearfishing. "[Spearfishing] was one of the loves of his life," Zanet said.

Vincenzo Cucco, co-owner of Bacco, said his partner was "an expert spearfisher," who did not take chances with his sport. "He was very careful in the water," Cucco said.

Boat May Have Caused Accident

Dominici was first reported missing about 10:45 a.m. April 11, after he failed to return from an early-morning fishing expedition with a friend.

A search by the Hawaii Fire Department off the waters of Kailua-Kona on the

island of Hawaii initially turned up some of Dominici's diving gear. Later, the Hawaii Police Department, using DNA testing, identified a bone fragment found in the water as Dominici's.

Police reported that an examination of some of Dominici's equipment indicated he might have been hit by a boat. According to police, witnesses described seeing a boat in the area where Dominici was spearfishing. Police were still continuing their investigation and were asking the public's help in obtaining information about any boats that might have been cruising near where Dominici was diving.

Though the restaurant staff was shaken by the loss of its popular co-owner, Bacco will continue to operate. "Bacco will be okay," Cucco said. "There are good people working there."

Zanet noted that many people have come by to drop off cards and flowers, or jerseys inscribed with the names of Dominici's favorite soccer teams. Many longtime customers, Zanet said, have continued to dine at Bacco as a gesture of support.

A Gracious and Warm Host

Gail and Herman Papa, West of Twin Peaks residents, were doing just that one evening last month. The couple have been coming to Bacco for years and were devastated to hear of Dominici's death. The Papas called him "a very special guy," who had a wonderful ability to make you feel like more than a customer. "We enjoyed seeing [Dominici] as much as we enjoyed the food," said Herman Papa.

Also dining at Bacco last month were Grand View Avenue residents Laura Prager and Cheryl Jennings. The two said they had been eating at Bacco for the last



Paolo Dominici, co-owner of Bacco Ristorante on Diamond Street, was an experienced fisherman. His death in Hawaii

Photo courtesy Vincenzo Cucco

dozen or so years and had celebrated many special events at the restaurant.

Prager said she was "in shock" when she learned of Dominici's death. Jennings called the restaurant owner one of the "sweetest, kindest, handsomest, most gracious, and charismatic men" she'd ever known. She added that Bacco was like a second home, thanks to Dominici. "It's the most family-style restaurant in Noe Valley," Jennings said. The two also said their hearts went out to Dominici's wife and daughter.

Dominici was born in Rome, Italy, in 1960. According to Cucco, he attended an Italian business school and then immigrated to the United States when he was in his early 20s. His elderly mother, Isabella Dominici, still lives in Rome. For

a while, Dominici worked for his older brother, Luigi Dominici, who owned a restaurant in Russian Hill.

In 1993, Paolo Dominici and Cucco opened Bacco, with Dominici acting as host and Cucco doing the cooking. The two would later open a second Italian restaurant in Belmont, called Divino. Eventually, the two partners decided to divide up management duties, with Cucco running Divino and Dominici staying in Noe Valley to manage Bacco.

A clearly saddened Cucco called Dominici "a loyal friend, a solid, solid guy, who loved his wife and daughter and would be there for you."

A memorial service was held May 1 at Saint Anne of the Sunset Catholic Church in San Francisco's Sunset District. ■

A Call Out to Home Businesses In Noe Valley

By Lorraine Sanders

Running a business out of the home often comes with perks, such as low overhead, independence, and flexible hours. But the lower visibility that goes hand in hand with these advantages can leave small businesses in a bind. So what's an eager home-based entrepreneur to do to reach local customers?

Take it to the streets, suggests the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association. Just in time for San Francisco Small Business Week (May 16-23), the neighborhood group is planning an event to highlight home-based and other small businesses in Noe Valley. The association is inviting local entrepreneurs to set up shop on sidewalks along 24th Street on Saturday, May 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"Our biggest challenge is who are the professionals in home-based businesses and how do we reach them," says Association President Gwen Sanderson.

In recent weeks, Sanderson and Noe Street resident Carol Hornibrook, an at-home entrepreneur who creates video family histories through her company So Tell Me More, have been reaching out to Noe Valley business owners and encouraging them to get involved in what they hope will become an annual event.

"What we're trying to do is help people who have their businesses at home or professionals who work out of the home to get some visibility in the neighborhood," Hornibrook explains.

Businesses of all types are welcome, including dog walkers, massage

therapists, home repair specialists, accountants, artists, musicians, photographers, and graphic designers. The goal this year is to attract between 15 and 20 businesses. To learn more or get involved, call Carol Hornibrook at 415-699-1045 or Gwen Sanderson at 415-509-6261 or send an e-mail to info@noevalleymerchants.com or carol@totellmemore.com by May 12.

GirlBiz Showcases Handmade Art

Deayn Boger is another entrepreneur promoting home-based businesses this month, but in a different way. On May 2, Boger held the third GirlBiz sale event she's organized in Noe Valley at Bernie's Cafe on 24th Street. The sales, which Boger has held about every three months since launching GirlBiz last December, feature accessories, jewelry, and edibles made by women in the Bay Area.

At the most recent event, Boger showcased items made by 10 women. Priced from \$7 to \$125, items ranged from homemade jams to handmade barrettes, gemstone earrings to hand-dyed silk scarves, and vintage-inspired aprons.

"I definitely promote them and their story. I have a sales background, and it's pretty easy for me to communicate about the products that are made," says Boger, who hopes to continue the events in Noe Valley at regular intervals throughout the year.

To learn more about GirlBiz and participating designers, visit www.girlbizshop.com. For more information about Small Business Week, go to www.sfsmallbusinessweek.com. ■



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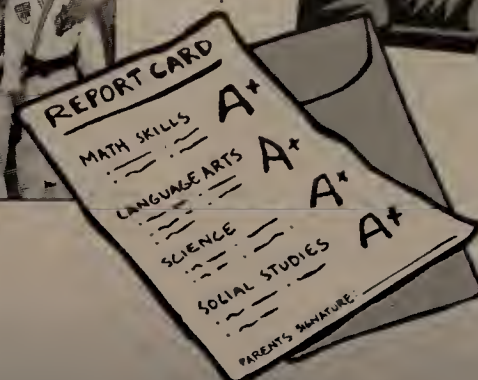
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Sidewalk Parking Is Particularly Prickly

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

urban living, an obstructed sidewalk can easily turn hazardous, especially for those with special needs such as the blind or wheelchair-bound. If a vehicle is blocking the path, a pedestrian can be forced off the sidewalk and into the street.

"It's a disability access issue," said Nicolas King, an aide to Supervisor Bevan Dufty who has fielded calls from residents who've been ticketed. "People will say, 'Nobody on this block is disabled, so why does it matter?' or they'll say, 'There's plenty of room between my car and the street, so why does it matter?'" The law isn't there to protect people who are residents necessarily.... The streets aren't just for the people that live on them."

A Night Raid

But it's not the sentiment of the law itself that's irking ticket recipients.

"It's a new thing. I've lived here for four years, and they've never ticketed us, ever. And then all of a sudden....," says Jason Yurasek, a thrice-ticketed Clipper Street resident who recently learned the hard way that leaving his vehicle unattended in the driveway for even a few minutes can result in a parking citation.

At about 10:30 p.m. on a weeknight in late April, Yurasek moved his car from his garage into his driveway so he could maneuver residential garbage bins to the street curb.

"As I was just about finished, I sliced my finger on a piece of glass and received a bloody gash. I ran inside a bit too dramatically.... But my wonderful wife cleaned and dressed the wound and sent me on my way. I was gone perhaps three to five minutes," Yurasek wrote in an e-mail to neighbors, Supervisor Dufty, and the SFMTA.

Readers will surely guess the story's conclusion. While Yurasek was inside his home tending to his finger, his car received a fresh ticket. While it wasn't the first one he and wife Bodhanna Kesala have received this year, Yurasek was particularly annoyed to be cited so quickly at night.

From the Building to the Curb

Other residents, equally frustrated with the sudden rash of tickets, complain that the city's definition of "sidewalk" is overly strict and, in some cases, absurd.

"I got a ticket for parking outside, where actually my stairs went out further than my car does. I don't see why they don't ticket my stairs," said Jamie Howell, who has lived on the 300 block of Clipper Street since 1974 and can remember only one other period in 35 years



In late April, this double-parked car on Sanchez Street had been labeled as a parking scofflaw. But cars along Clipper Street were conspicuously law-abiding. Photos by Pamela Gerard

when people were ticketed for parking in their driveways.

According to San Francisco City and County Surveyor Bruce Storrs, the city owns "the right of way in fee" from the front of the buildings to the street for this block of Clipper Street. While this assertion effectively puts an end to any arguments from residents claiming the legal right to park in the driveway, it raises yet more questions about sidewalk maintenance and residential liability for problems like damaged concrete.

"Okay fine, I can't park in this driveway because it's not my property. Then how can [the city] hold me liable for the maintenance of a sidewalk and the liability of a person who trips?" asks Yurasek.

'Just a Revenue Source'

Another issue concerns the unusually wide sidewalks that front the homes along this particular block of Clipper Street. While many San Francisco streets have narrow sidewalks that can easily be obstructed by vehicles, homeowners here say their block has sidewalks wide enough to allow pedestrians to comfort-

ably pass, even when cars are in the driveways.

"We're not even blocking the sidewalk. This is just a revenue source," said Howell, who believes the city is unfairly targeting the block.

So has the city increased enforcement on Clipper Street?

When Kesala approached a parking control officer in the process of ticketing a neighbor's vehicle earlier this year to ask that very question, she said she was told that he was "just following orders."

"I asked if there had been any complaints, and he said, 'No,' that these were specific orders for the whole block and other blocks in Noe Valley," Kesala wrote in an e-mail.

But Supervisor Dufty maintains otherwise.

"It's consistently said to me that parking control officers do not go and look for these violations, that they are complaint-driven. I'm confident it is complaint-based," he said.

King reiterated this idea, saying, "Any resident can call and say, 'I see a violation,' and the police will send out an officer."

Changes in Patterns

However, the SFMTA's True hopes a meeting that's now being planned to connect concerned residents with representatives from his agency through Supervisor Dufty's office will help everyone involved learn more about changes in ticketing patterns and why they are happening.

"That's why we want to sit down and work with people. We have had some changes in our deployment of parking control officers," True admitted.

In a letter to Clipper Street residents, an SFMTA enforcement officer laid out

the reasons: "The disability community has consistently expressed a strong safety concern about vehicles parking on the sidewalk, not only creating a physical obstruction for the disabled, children, the elderly walking on the sidewalks, but also the hazardous leakage of fluids from these same vehicles."

Because sidewalk parking has been challenged in the past to no avail, neither True nor Dufty expects the policy to change.

"Unless there's a will at the state level to make exemptions or make distinctions, I don't see what we can do here," Dufty said. "What I advised people to do is to create as much goodwill as you can in your neighborhood.... I don't think there is a lot of latitude in the situation." ■

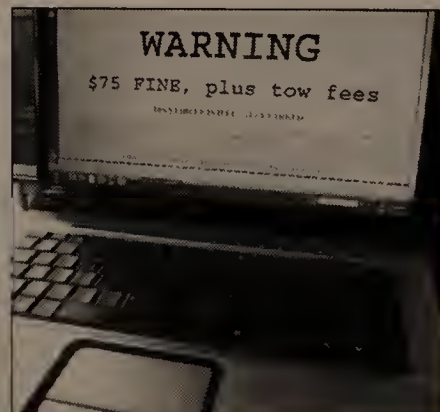
Meanwhile, other parts of the neighborhood are feeling their own parking pains. In April, flyers warning residents against parking vehicles on public streets for more than 72 consecutive hours were placed on cars along 29th Street, and merchants along the 24th Street business corridor reported an increase in tickets issued for expired meters.



Common Parking Violations and Fees

Parking on the sidewalk	\$100
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Parking during streetcleaning	\$50
Blocking a residential driveway	\$85
Double-parking	\$75
Car parked facing the wrong direction.....	\$45
Parking adjacent to a median or island (e.g., Dolores Street).....	\$60
Overtime parking in residential permit zone	\$60
Illegal parking in a blue zone	\$300
Parking on or in a crosswalk	\$85

Data source: <http://www.sfmta.com/cms/penf/pkfines.htm>



Residents can print out their own warning signs, for such things as sidewalk parking, blocked driveways, and abandoned cars. Go to www.sfmta.com/cms/penf/13444.html.

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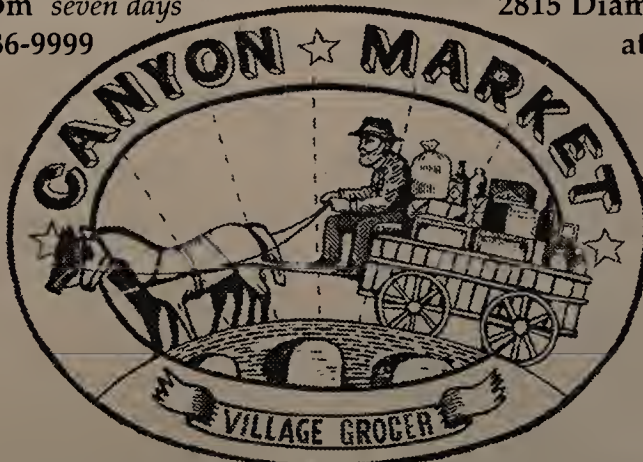
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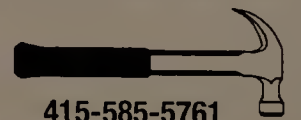
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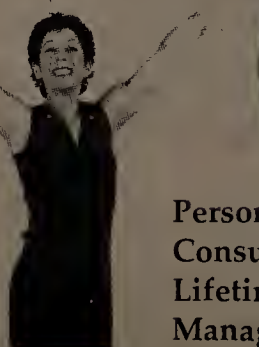
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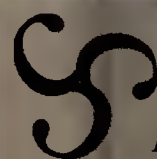
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Noe Valley Quest— A Neighborhood Treasure Hunt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

like gardens, stairways, street art, and sweeping vistas.

At the June drawing, neighbors can swap stories about finding “the trapezoid inside the octagon” at a Noe Valley park, as one answer requires.

The three planners have rounded up more than a dozen businesses to play—on 24th, Church, Diamond, and Castro streets.

“It felt like making a movie,” Erik said. “Malcolm produced it, I created it, and Gwen directed it.”

The Noe Valley Quest was partly inspired by a last-minute distraction organized by Cover to Cover Booksellers two years ago when the final Harry Potter book came out, Sanderson said. Fearing a long, weary line of Potter fans outside its door at midnight, the store asked neighboring businesses to help with a scavenger hunt and outdoor costume party.

Instead of jostling in line all night, fans paid for their books and received a voucher and scavenger-hunt questions that could be answered by going into neighboring stores, like Video Wave. The stores also held stacks of the Potter books for Cover to Cover. Come midnight, when the book could finally be released, fans turned in their vouchers in whichever store they happened to be.

“By which point they were totally bleary-eyed,” said Sanderson, who served popcorn and good cheer the whole night.

“It didn’t have to do with people being my customer—it was just fun,” she said.

Similarly, the Quest creators wanted to make the Noe Valley scavenger hunt less

about business and more about communal experience. That’s why the questions put participants out in the neighborhood—all except the last question, which requires a visit to a participating store.

“We get far more benefit from putting it on than from forcing people to come in and look at stuff as part of the game,” Sanderson said. “We want it to be fun.”

The businesses involved will have window displays highlighting the adventure, and owners will be happy to give hints to answers to the quiz, she said. The prizes, valued at \$50 to \$250, will include such things as free movie rentals from Video Wave and a basket of kitchen products from Cooks Boulevard.

If all goes well, the three masterminds plan to host a winter version that involves more stores and indoor spaces, Sanderson said. Certainly the planning was great fun for Sanderson, Haar, and Mantsch.

“I totally neglected my business doing this,” Sanderson said with a laugh. ■

Where to Find the Game

To compete in this month’s Noe Valley Quest scavenger hunt, tear out the half-page “map” on page 4 in this issue of the *Voice*. Or, if the form has mysteriously disappeared, you can pick up one at any of the following businesses:

- Cooks Boulevard
- Cover to Cover Booksellers
- Forbeadin’
- Just Awesome! The Board Game Store
- Ladybug Ladybug
- Peekabootique
- Neon Monster
- Omnivore Books on Food
- Purple Iris Healing Center
- Small Frys
- So Tell Me More Family Histories
- Video Wave of Noe Valley
- Wink SF

Farmers Market Adds a Second Day For the Summer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Market at 3950 24th Street. Bell shut down its grocery store in mid-February, leaving Noe Valley without a full-service grocery until Whole Foods Market opens on the site in September.

And in the neighboring Castro District, a large farmers market opened April 29, featuring 30 vendors offering a mix of organic and non-organic foods and products. Consumers can shop at the Castro Farmers’ Market every Wednesday from 4 to 8 p.m. until it shuts down for the season on Oct. 28. The market is located on Noe Street between Market and Beaver streets.

Tuesday Market Gets a Hand

Noe Valley’s Tuesday market will be smaller than the one held every Saturday in the Noe Valley Ministry parking lot on 24th Street between Vicksburg and Sanchez streets. That event, which will continue, runs 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and has about 20 vendors selling organic and natural foods.

Because of limited space, only seven or eight sellers are expected to participate at the Bell/Whole Foods site, said Leslie Crawford, one of the organizers. The farms and other vendors will sell a variety of products, including fruits and vegetables, eggs, and juices, she said.

Crawford said Whole Foods executives were “fabulous” in helping to facilitate the farmers market expansion. And Supervisor Bevan Dufty played a key role as well.

Dufty introduced legislation that asked the city to waive the estimated \$900 to

\$1,000 in permit fees to set up the Tuesday market. Dufty said the Whole Foods location was impermanent and simply an extension of the original site.

A supervisory committee last month unanimously approved the legislation. It was expected to easily win full board approval in early May, according to Boe Hayward, Dufty’s legislative aide.

Crawford said the new market would run “through the end of August, or possibly beyond, depending on when Whole Foods opens.”

Whole Foods on Schedule

The national chain of upscale groceries has said it plans to open in September, following a \$5 million remodeling. “So far, everything is on schedule,” said Andrew Calabrese, Whole Foods’ liaison to Noe Valley.

In addition to providing the farmers market site, Whole Foods is continuing a Tuesday shuttle that takes shoppers from Noe Valley to its store on Potrero Hill. The shuttle operates between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., making a continuous loop from in front of Bell/Whole Foods to the Whole Foods at 450 Rhode Island Street.

The Castro Farmers’ Market will have many of the same goods found in the Noe Valley Farmers’ Market, but offer them on a different day and at different hours.

“We’ll have cheese and honey and olive oil and all that fun stuff,” said Steve Adams, president of the Merchants of Upper Market & Castro.

With the Wednesday late-afternoon, early-evening hours, Adams said, “People can stop in after work, buy products, and hopefully visit some of the other stores in the neighborhood.” ■

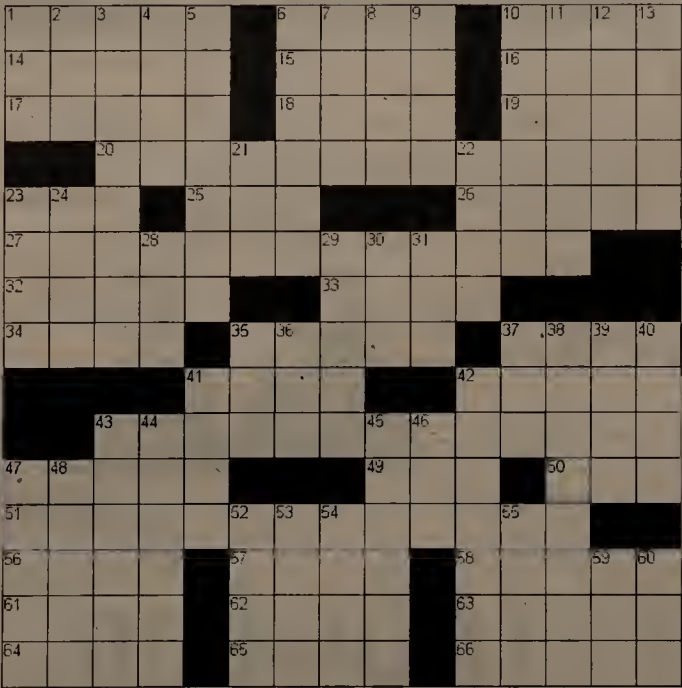


CROSSWORD BY MICHAEL BLAKE

Locally Adapted Entertainment

ACROSS

- 1. Spring bloom
- 6. Battery fluid
- 10. Johnson of “Laugh-In”
- 14. January in Juárez
- 15. Procter & Gamble soap
- 16. Plane-jumping G.I.
- 17. Chastise
- 18. Itsy-bitsy biter
- 19. “XII” pope before John XXIII
- 20. “Tea for Two” musical of 1925, as staged at 51-Across
- 23. “___ matter of fact...”
- 25. Ending for cloth or cash
- 26. Promises
- 27. Bogart film of 1955, as shown at 51-Across
- 32. Pigeon’s perch
- 33. Like some airports: Abbr.
- 34. Air pollution
- 35. Be of one mind
- 37. Cooper car
- 41. Memo
- 42. Confronted
- 43. TV game show commencing in 2001, as it would have been filmed at 51 Across
- 47. Tenderfoot or Eagle
- 49. ER equipment
- 50. Weep
- 51. 24th Street landmark from 1937 to the 1950s
- 56. Sammy Davis Jr.’s “___ Can”
- 57. Airline in the song “Back in the USSR”
- 58. Big name in watches
- 61. Clapton who sang



- “Layla”
- 62. Add to the pot
- 63. Actors Sharif and Epps
- 64. Trig function
- 65. Famed loch
- 66. April, May, and June, e.g.

DOWN

- 1. Bandleader Brown of renown
- 2. Business abbr.
- 3. Actor DiCaprio
- 4. Woody’s son
- 5. Cough syrup ingredient
- 6. “An Inconvenient Truth” star
- 7. Chaplin prop
- 8. “Terrible” czar
- 9. Numbers to crunch
- 10. Fundraising letter

- 11. Singers Bonnie and John
- 12. It’s a fact
- 13. Relieves
- 21. “The Matrix” hero
- 22. Christmas carol
- 23. Hole-punching tools
- 24. Appear to be
- 28. “Which came first?” item
- 29. Broadcaster
- 30. Direction opposite SSW
- 31. It’s called Verizon now
- 35. “You’ve got mail” co.
- 36. 1960s muscle car
- 37. Furious
- 38. Float ingredient
- 39. Close
- 40. As a loafer would
- 41. Defense grp.

- 42. Drape with garlands
- 43. Murders most foully
- 44. One of the Kennedys
- 45. Sisters’ daughters
- 46. Egg cells
- 47. Eye sores
- 48. Oteri of “Saturday Night Live”
- 52. Abba of Israel
- 53. Color quality
- 54. Derbies
- 55. Austen novel made into a 1996 movie
- 59. Test for college srs.
- 60. Buffoon

Solution on Page 45

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Bone Book Authors: Calcium Not All It's Cracked Up to Be

By Olivia Boler

If you want strong bones, you should drink lots of milk and take calcium supplements, right? Not if you ask nutrition scientist Amy Lanou and health writer Michael Castleman, co-authors of a new book titled *Building Bone Vitality: A Revolutionary Diet Plan to Prevent Bone Loss and Reverse Osteoporosis*.

In the guide, due out in June from McGraw-Hill publishers, Lanou and Castleman make the case for a "low-acid diet" based on fruits and vegetables as the best way to keep bones strong and healthy. They also explain why they think the traditional "calcium theory of osteoporosis" is wrongheaded.

With a foreword by health guru Dean Ornish, the book offers a wealth of research, plus some bone-friendly recipes. The *Noe Valley Voice* recently chatted with Castleman—who is also a novelist and a 28-year neighborhood resident—about calcium, diet, and why Noe Valley is a great place for maintaining healthy bones.

Noe Valley Voice: Talk a bit about the calcium theory and why you think it's wrong.

Michael Castleman: The calcium theory is kind of like a secular religion and everyone believes in it. Our U.S. health agencies—the Surgeon General, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health—everyone says to women, "Get more calcium." And over the last 30 years, women keep

bumping up the calcium because they're told they need to be getting 1,000 mg a day and they need to get it from supplements.

Why do these organizations think it's so important? Well, it's a straight line. Bones have a lot of calcium. But they also are made up of 16 other nutrients. The thinking is, however, if people have osteoporosis and don't have strong bones, they must not have a lot of calcium.

But if you take a look at the worldwide epidemiology, as Amy and I did, you'll see this view is totally myopic. Those countries with the highest calcium consumption—the U.S., Western Europe, Australia, and New Zealand—their bone health is doing terribly. At the same time, our rates of osteoporosis are rising, and

We looked at four research surveys on four different continents over 20 years, all doing different counting techniques. They show that countries that have little calcium consumption, and a lot of these are Asian—China, Thailand, Japan—they consume less than 500 mg of calcium a day, yet their rate of hip fracture is 70 percent lower than ours!

women are taking more calcium. We looked at four research surveys on four different continents over 20 years, all doing different counting techniques. They show that countries that have little calcium consumption, and a lot of these are Asian—China, Thailand, Japan—they consume less than 500 mg of calcium a day, yet their rate of hip fracture is 70 percent lower than ours! Either all these surveys are lying or calcium isn't the key.

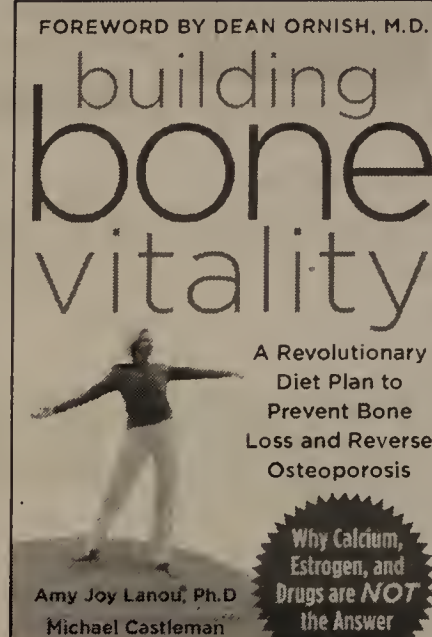
Now, epidemiology points in certain

directions but never really proves anything. You need experimental research for proof. No one else has done what Amy and I did: We fished out every bone fracture study conducted since 1975. Of 140 studies of dietary risk factors for osteopathic fracture, one-third—about 40 studies—show that if you bump up calcium with milk, dairy, cheese, yogurt, and pills, you get some decrease in fractures. The other two-thirds show little or no difference [caused by] the intake of calcium. That's two-to-one *against* the calcium theory. Those studies that show no benefit to calcium are gold-plated studies. Harvard followed 80,000 middle-aged nurses for 12 years and tracked what they were eating. You know what they found? Calcium had no effect on preventing bone fractures.

NVV: In your book, you write about the news media supporting the calcium theory. Why do you think that is?

MC: There are a number of reasons, and a whole chapter in the book addresses this. One is the 40 studies that show a benefit from calcium have taken place over 30 years, and that's one a year. That's enough to keep in the headlines the idea that milk helps bones. Another reason is a publication bias in science: If your study shows that something doesn't happen rather than something did happen, it's harder to get published. We had a hell of a time searching out the studies that show calcium does *not* prevent fractures.

Also, the dairy industry is hugely, politically powerful in the United States, and the USDA [U.S. Department of Agriculture] has been telling people since World War II, "Drink milk for strong bones." It seems innocuous and makes sense. The job of the USDA is to promote agriculture in the U.S., and its subsidiary mission is to tell Americans to get good nutrition by eating the things grown here. When these beliefs get established, it is



Michael Castleman's latest book, co-authored with nutrition scientist Amy Lanou, contradicts long-held views that consumption of milk and other dairy products is essential for bone health.

difficult to break them. Think about all the times you've seen the "Got milk?" ads. Vegetable growers, for reasons that escape me, haven't done something like that, and I think it's stupid, but that's the way it is.

There's also a feeling of entitlement in this country. When people become affluent, they eat more meat and dairy and fewer plants, and they feel it's their God-given right. Traditional diets—plant-based diets—in developing countries are getting left behind as their affluence increases.

NVV: Talk about the diet you advocate, a low-acid diet. It sounds vegan.

MC: What we recommend in the book is low-acid eating, which is a plant-based

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



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1C – NO — Lottery Modernization

1D – NO RECOMMENDATION — Children's Services Fund

1E – NO RECOMMENDATION — Mental Health Services Funding

1F – NO RECOMMENDATION — Elected Officials' Salaries

* Proposition 1B will only be funded if both Propositions 1A and 1B pass.

The Noe Valley Democratic Club *generally* meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St. at Elizabeth. Call 415 641-5838 for meeting times and location.

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The Cost of Living in Noe

Buyers in Batter's Box

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley's housing market scored a few runs in March as buyers purchased nine residential properties, including a two-story, modern-style home that once was the fashionable address of a former baseball player for the San Francisco Giants.

Sales were down from the 11 homes buyers acquired in the neighborhood one year earlier, according to data supplied to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate. But the March transactions represented a noticeable improvement over February, when buyers bought just six homes.

The one-time home of outfielder Moises Alou was among the most expensive properties to change hands during the month. The buyers didn't diddle over the \$1,850,000 asking price and closed escrow in less than one month on the three-bedroom, 2.5-bath home on Noe Street.

The home's celebrity association did not sway the unidentified buyers into making an offer, said their real estate agent Janet Larson of Pacific Union GMAC Real Estate. "They liked the house and it fit their needs," said Larson.

The 2,300-square-foot home was remodeled in 2005 with a gourmet kitchen, wine cellar, and two-car garage. Located in the 1400 block of Noe Street between 27th and 28th streets, the home provides panoramic views from both a deck and a living room with a floor-to-ceiling glass

wall.

Alou purchased the home in 2005 after signing a reported \$13.5 million contract with the Giants. The popular fielder hit 22 home runs for San Francisco during the 2006 season. In 2007, he sold his Noe Valley home for \$1,865,000—\$10,000 less than he paid—and moved to the East Coast to join the New York Mets baseball team.

Falling Averages

The fast pace and firm selling price in March of the Noe Street home was an anomaly. The typical Noe Valley buyer that month paid 6 percent below the seller's asking price and took 77 days to close escrow on a home costing \$1.2 million.

Contrast that with a year ago, when buyers paid an average \$1.9 million and sealed their deals in less than a month and a half.

In April, Randall Kostick, Zephyr's general sales manager, said the housing market has "certainly picked up from the preceding two months"—the winter season when sales traditionally are slow.

Still, Kostick acknowledged that sellers are playing a waiting game, and "buyers are pickier and fussier and in a much better position to negotiate and get what they want" than they were in the spring of 2008.

Lenders Like 30% Down

Kostick also said transactions are taking longer to complete because mortgage lenders are tightening their loan criteria—sometimes from week to week.

"Lenders are still lending, but they're much stricter about guidelines and what they need before they'll process their loans," he said. "They ask for lots of documentation now."

To get a lender's best mortgage rates,

Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
March 2009	9	\$575,000	\$1,850,000	\$1,204,889	77	94%
Feb. 2009	6	\$770,000	\$2,579,000	\$1,494,833	50	99%
March 2008	11	\$930,000	\$3,038,000	\$1,875,082	42	102%
Condominiums						
March 2009	5	\$435,000	\$859,000	\$634,600	43	99%
Feb. 2009	6	\$599,000	\$1,575,000	\$835,250	104	95%
March 2008	4	\$595,000	\$1,300,000	\$950,000	27	103%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
March 2009	1	\$730,000	\$730,000	\$730,000	27	94%
Feb. 2009	1	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	1	100%
March 2008	0	—	—	—	—	—
5+-unit buildings						
March 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—
Feb. 2009	0	—	—	—	—	—
March 2008	1	\$1,550,000	\$1,550,000	\$1,550,000	75	94%

* Sales include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for supplying the sales data.

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buyers also must make larger down payments—in the 30 percent range instead of the more traditional 20 percent—and possess excellent credit with no dings.

"If you want their optimal rate," it's best to have a high credit score in the 800-point range. "A 790 credit score is a pretty darn good score, but it may not get you the best [mortgage] rate anymore," Kostick said.

Condo Prices in a Slump

In addition to the Noe Street home, a second property also sold in March for \$1,850,000. Buyers paid 85 percent of the original asking price for the four-bed-

room, 3.5-bath home in the 700 block of Douglass Street between 23rd and 24th streets. The deal took 48 days to complete.

Five condominiums were sold in March, compared with six in February and four in March a year ago. The average sales price was \$634,000, a drop of 33 percent from the \$950,000 average in the same month last year.

Buyers paid \$859,000 for the costliest condo, a two-bedroom, two-bath unit in the 500 block of 28th Street between Castro and Diamond streets. It was only the second time since January 2007 that a condo sales price failed to reach the million-dollar mark.

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Unit	No. in Sample	Range April 2009	Average April 2009	Average March 2009	Average April 2008
Studio	8	\$1,150 – \$2,300	\$1,494 / mo.	\$1,347 / mo.	\$1,375 / mo.
1-bdrm	34	\$1,350 – \$3,625	\$1,916 / mo.	\$1,895 / mo.	\$2,008 / mo.
2-bdrm	43	\$1,650 – \$5,015	\$2,754 / mo.	\$2,789 / mo.	\$3,133 / mo.
3-bdrm	14	\$2,295 – \$7,800	\$4,330 / mo.	\$3,917 / mo.	\$4,075 / mo.
4+-bdrm	3	\$5,200 – \$8,700	\$6,800 / mo.	\$5,628 / mo.	\$5,449 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 102 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist from March 28 to April 9, 2009.

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POLICE BEAT

The Noe Valley Voice thanks Mission Police Captain Stephen Tacchini and Ingleside Police Captain Denis O'Leary for providing a partial tally of incidents occurring in Noe Valley from March 15 to April 15, 2009.

For details about these or other incidents, contact the police captains directly, or attend community meetings held monthly in each police district (see box below right).

NOE VALLEY / MISSION CRIME LOG

Mission Police Capt. Stephen Tacchini

Boundaries: 21st, Guerrero, Cesar Chavez, and Grand View

March 26, 8:15 p.m., 24th & Noe: Burglary, vehicle. Victim parked their vehicle, locking the doors and windows. Upon return, they found the vehicle's front passenger window shattered and personal items taken. No suspects were observed.

March 27, 9 a.m., Sanchez & Clipper: Burglary, public building. Victim left personal items in the building and upon return discovered the items stolen. No suspects were observed.

March 27, 9 p.m., 600 block of Sanchez: Burglary, hot prowl. While sleeping, the victims state their home was burglarized through an unlocked sliding patio door. No suspects were observed.

March 30, noon, 4000 block of 24th: Theft, building. A suspect entered a business and stole personal items. Several items were recovered. Suspect known to the business.

March 31, noon, 4000 block of 21st: Burglary, residence. Victims left their property, securing doors and windows and arming the security system. Upon return, they found a side window next to the front door broken and personal items stolen.

April 4, 6:30 a.m., 4000 block of 23rd: Robbery, street. Victim was struck from behind and robbed of personal belongings. Suspect fled on foot.

April 5, 1:30 p.m., 100 block of Portola: Burglary, apartment. Victims left their home, securing the property. Upon return, they found a broken window and items

Tire-Iron Robbers May Have Been Tripped Up in Taraval District

Special Patrol Officer Jane Warner submitted this summary of the April 4 robbery listed below:

On April 4, at 6:40 a.m., police responded to a report of a person who was robbed and hit over the head with a tire iron in the block of 23rd Street between Noe and Castro streets. When officers arrived, they found the victim surrounded by paramedics holding a towel to his head. "I was headed to get some coffee and work on my laptop when I heard footsteps behind me," the victim stated. "Suddenly, I was struck over the head with something heavy."

The victim told officers that the force of the blow caused him to fall to the pavement. When he looked up, he could see that his assailant, a heavy-set Hispanic male, 20 to 25 years old, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, was holding a tire iron. A second suspect, also a Hispanic male but with a thinner build, pointed a handgun. "Give me your shit," the armed robber demanded. Fearing for his life, the victim handed over his cell phone, laptop, and wallet. The suspects ran with the stolen goods eastbound on 23rd Street. Paramedics transported the victim to Kaiser Hospital for treatment for a head wound.

A short time later, officers in the Taraval District detained two suspects who had allegedly committed a robbery in that area. The victim was taken to the scene of the detention, but told officers he could not recognize the suspects in custody. Their clothing looked familiar, however, he said. Meanwhile, the victim's computer was found in the suspects' car, police said. The suspects were taken to Taraval Station for further investigation.

missing. No suspects were observed.

April 5, 4:17 p.m., 800 block of Sanchez: Stolen vehicle, possession of stolen property, narcotics. Officers observed suspects in a stolen vehicle and recovered stolen property and narcotics. Two booked and two detained.

April 9, 8 a.m., Clipper & Church: Vandalism, attempted residential burglary. Victim left their home, securing the property. Upon return, they found the front door tampered with. No suspects were observed.

April 9, 10:30 a.m., 4100 block of 23rd: Burglary, apartment. Victims left their home, securing the property. Upon return, they found the entry tampered with. No suspects were observed.

April 9, 1:30 p.m., 600 block of Grand View: False impersonation. Victim was contacted by their bank indicating an overdraft. Victim reported the fraud on their account.

April 13, 7:15 p.m., 23rd & Castro: False information to police, resisting warrant arrest. Officers detained and arrested two suspects for warrants and false information.

UPPER NOE VALLEY CRIME LOG

Ingleside Police Capt. Denis O'Leary

Boundaries: Cesar Chavez, Guerrero, 30th, and Grand View/Diamond Heights Blvd

March 15, noon, 200 block of Duncan: Theft from building, bicycle.

March 17, 9 p.m., 1300 block of Diamond: Auto burglary.

March 19, 10 p.m., 300 block of 27th: Stolen vehicle.

March 25, 6:30 p.m., Noe & 28th: Auto burglary.

March 26, 8:30 a.m., 100 block of Valley: Stolen vehicle, 1997 Honda Civic. Recovered on the first block of 28th Street.

March 27, 1:30 p.m., 100 block of Duncan: Fraud, stolen credit card used in thefts.

March 31, 6 p.m., 200 block of Duncan: Attempted burglary.

March 31, 6:30 p.m., 300 block of Duncan: Vandalism to parked car.

April 6, 9:15 a.m., 1600 block of Sanchez: 2000 Chevrolet Monte Carlo recovered.

April 6, noon, 30th & Dolores: Traffic collision, two vehicles. Two parties injured (minor injuries).

Tale of Two Police Districts

Noe Valley is split between two San Francisco police jurisdictions: Mission Police District and Ingleside Police District. With Cesar Chavez Street as the dividing line, Mission police monitor the northern half of the neighborhood, while Ingleside police watch over the southern half.

Both districts invite local residents to attend police-community meetings, held monthly. Mission Police District holds meetings on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street. Ingleside's community meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Police Station, 1 Sgt. John V. Young Lane.

To contact Mission Station, call 558-5400. You also may call Mission Station Capt. Stephen Tacchini at 558-5455 or e-mail him at Stephen_Tacchini@sfgov.org. Mission's tip line for anonymous reporting is 552-4558. To contact Ingleside, call 404-4000, or e-mail Capt. Denis O'Leary at Denis.O'Leary@sfgov.org. The Ingleside tip line is 587-8984.

For online reporting, go to www.sfgov.org/police. To report a crime in progress, call 911. Note that when calling 911 on a cellular phone near a highway, the call is connected to the California Highway Patrol (CHP) dispatch center. In other areas of San Francisco, the call will connect directly to San Francisco Dispatch. Cell phone users can also dial S.F. Dispatch directly: 415-553-8090.



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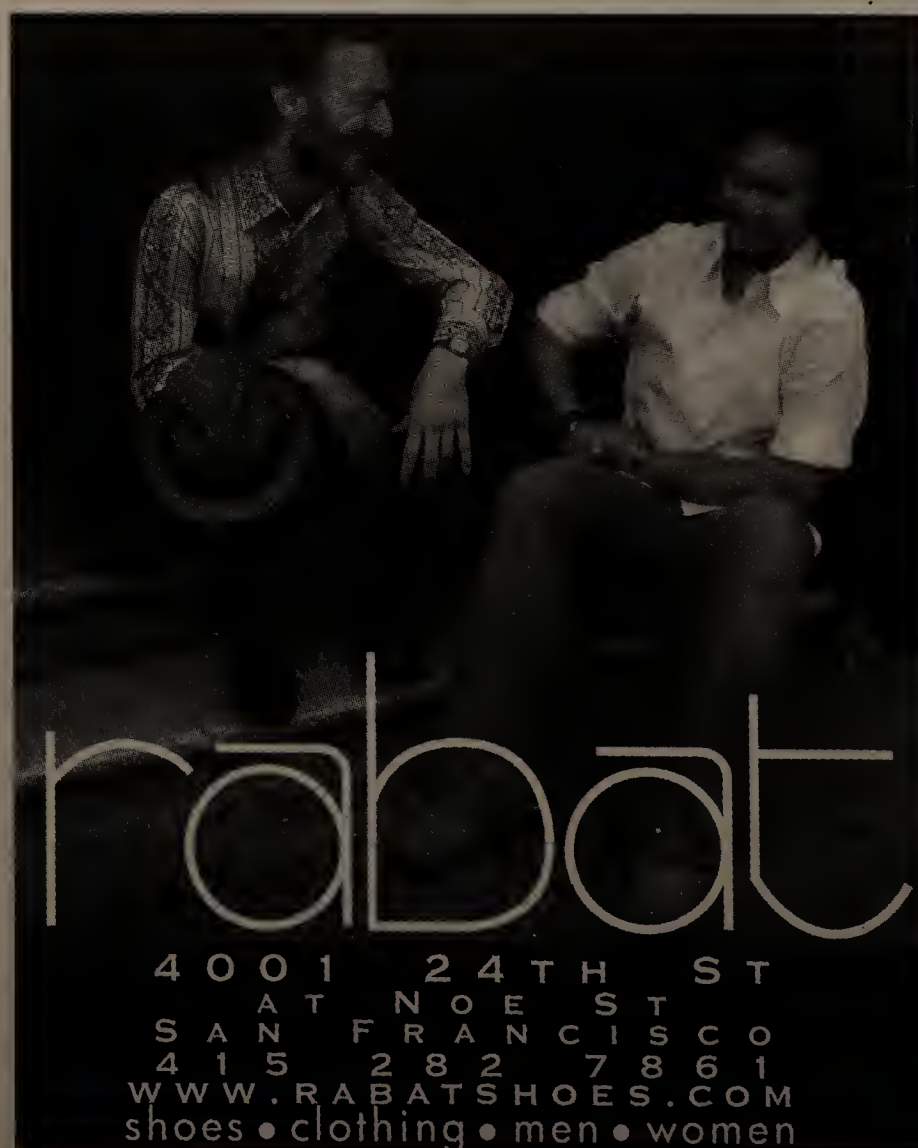
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No Bones About It— Eat Your Vegetables

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

diet much lower in protein than what most Americans eat. Protein is made of amino acids, and the gut breaks protein down into 20 amino acids. The human body has to maintain a certain pH [a measure of acidity or alkalinity], so when the blood becomes slightly more acidic, alarms go off to flood the blood with an alkaline material to neutralize the acid, and the main alkaline material in the body is calcium carbonate. This gets pulled out from our bones, and that is the fundamental explanation of osteoporosis—you get weak bones and fractures.

People believe you drink milk and it goes into bone, but that is not how it works. There are two groups of cells, the osteoblasts that build bone matter and osteoclasts which clear out old bone. When the blood is slightly acidic, the bone builders go to sleep and the clasts have to destroy bone to neutralize the acid and calcium in the blood. With a plant diet, the clasts go to sleep and the blasts wake up and build bone.

The last chapter in our book presents a good scientific theory advocating a plant-based diet. Plants contain protein, but they are also mostly alkaline. So when we eat a salad, we get some protein and it gets broken down into those amino acids, but they are introduced into the blood with alkaline material, and the body doesn't have to dip into bone matter.

Those who say if you become a vegetarian, you don't have enough protein are



For more on Michael Castleman's career as a medical journalist and fiction writer, see our profile in the April 2003 Voice at www.noevalleyvoice.com.



Is There a Great-Great-Grandmother's Day? Church Street resident Maria Callaghan (center) and family must have quite a celebration each year on Mother's Day. She arrived in the United States from Scotland in 1956, bringing seven children. "My husband had come ahead of me to find a job and a place for us to live. We bought a house on Liberty Street in Eureka Valley when my eighth daughter came along, and the children went to school there and made lifelong friends. I've seen a lot of changes both in Noe and Eureka Valley, and I still love living here in Noe Valley where I moved after selling my house." Approaching her 89th birthday in July, Mrs. Callaghan can now count 22 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. "I send birthday cards to all—it's good for my memory!" she says. Among her card recipients and loving family members are (from left) granddaughter Emily Ertola, daughter Teresa Donnelly, daughter June Ahern, grandson Daniel Ahern, and daughter Frances Ertola. The Voice wishes all a happy day May 10.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

in error. Americans get twice as much protein as they need for good health. You can be a vegan and get enough protein. But you don't have to be a vegetarian to save your bones. The healthiest way to eat is a near vegetarian diet, which is mostly plant foods with occasionally a little bit of protein. I am a near vegetarian. I eat chicken and seafood about twice a week, and I rarely eat red meat. Amy, my co-author, is a vegan.

NVV: Some people really like their cheese, and frozen yogurt is popular again. Are there any benefits to dairy and protein-rich foods at all?

MC: Yes, there are benefits, and they do provide some nutrients. Americans eat a tremendous amount of meat and dairy, which is high in saturated fat, and those are linked to things like stroke, cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and osteoporosis. When you eat a high fat/protein diet, you're at risk for all the things Americans are suffering from. When you look at the

research, vegetarians are healthier. I occasionally have ice cream, but I get six to eight servings of fruits and vegetables every day. People need to make informed choices.

NVV: What about grains?

MC: Grains are slightly acid-forming, but nowhere near as acid-forming as meat, poultry, and dairy. It takes three servings of alkaline, plant-based foods to neutralize one serving of a high-acid food. It takes about one and a half to two servings to neutralize the acid in grains. So if you eat something like pasta primavera, you're fine.

NVV: Hip fractures can mean death to an elderly person, although people are living longer. Does this low-acid diet extend not only life but also quality of life in later years?

MC: Hip fracture is the major public health hazard of osteoporosis. All bones break with osteoporosis, but only one type has public health consequences. Within a year, 25 percent of those people who suffer a hip fracture die. Those who don't have to go into nursing homes, which is very expensive. A broken ankle in an 85-year-old woman will cause her pain, but you don't put her in a nursing home and raise taxes to pay for it. Medicaid and Medi-Cal are paying for the hip fractures. It's a lot cheaper if people die without going into a nursing home, plus those are not happy places. If you follow

a low-acid diet, you have less chance of getting cancer and heart disease and going into a nursing home. People will still die, but they'll also live longer. The worldwide epidemiology is clear.

NVV: What about vitamin supplements? Some people just don't like to eat fruits and veggies.

MC: Food is better than vitamins. They are called supplements for a reason. I have nothing against vitamins. I take a multi-vitamin. A lot of Americans think they can substitute or erase a bad diet with supplements. No, you eat food. Food first.

NVV: What can Noe Valleyans in particular do to follow the book's guidance?

MC: No matter what your take on diet, daily exercise is critical to bone health. Walking is the best exercise, and 30 to 60 minutes a day is critical. Noe Valley is a very walkable neighborhood with hills, so it's a good neighborhood for bone health. Beyond that, Noe Valley has got the farmer's market and will have Whole Foods at some point, so it's easy to get a wide range of fruits and vegetables in Noe Valley.



Here's a recipe from *Building Bone Vitality*, a health guide by Michael Castleman and Amy Lanou to be published next month. The soup is easy to make, and according to my kitchen testers, quite tasty.

—Olivia Boler

MC's Soup

Serves 2 to 4

This recipe was developed from ingredients found at Trader Joe's. The ingredients require no preparation at all. Just throw everything into a soup pot and heat.

- 1 32-ounce container of any type of vegetable soup: broccoli, tomato, carrot, mushroom, sweet corn, butternut squash, black bean, French onion, carrot/ginger, red pepper/tomato, or curried red lentil, available at health food stores and many supermarkets (visit imaginefood.com or pacificfoods.com).
- 1 10-ounce package of frozen vegetables or, if you have time, 3 to 4 cups peeled (if necessary) and chopped fresh vegetables (such as zucchini, carrots, mushrooms, spinach, or green beans)
- 1 cup mild, medium, or spicy tomato salsa
- 1 cup chopped tofu or soy ground beef substitute (optional)
- 1 15-ounce can kidney, garbanzo, pinto, or other beans (optional)

Mix everything in a soup pot. Heat and eat. This soup is hearty enough for a meal. Refrigerated, it keeps for several days. If you have access to a microwave, it's great for lunch at work.

—Published with permission from *Building Bone Vitality: A Revolutionary Diet Plan to Prevent Bone Loss and Reverse Osteoporosis*, by Amy Lanou and Michael Castleman (McGraw-Hill, June 2009)

Coping With Recession?

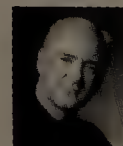
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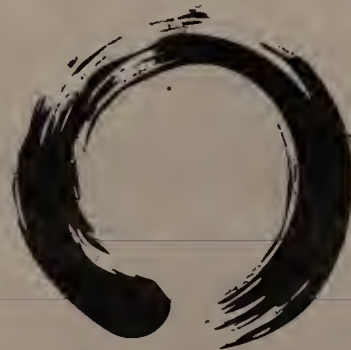
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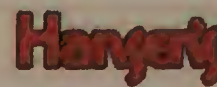
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Noe Valley

\$2,198,000

Designed with great sensitivity to its architectural heritage, revised with highest quality and attention to detail, this elegant home is finished with practicality and comfort in mind. Set in a glorious mature garden, the home flows easily to the outdoors and benefits from the best Noe Village location. The functional floor plan includes a wonderful main level with spacious living room featuring cove ceilings, elegant stone mantle over wood-burning fireplace, handsome window bays, period woodwork and gleaming hardwood floors. The dining room opens to a large south-facing deck and the bright professionally equipped kitchen. Upstairs are three spacious bedrooms with custom built-ins and custom closet systems, handsome period and updated details. The master has a south-facing balcony and warm marble bath.

www.BestofNoe.com

Wendy Storch 415.519.6091



Noe Valley

\$1,695,000

This renovated Edwardian is located two blocks from the Douglass Playground. The ground floor was redesigned to enlarge a former studio into a one bedroom apartment. The main house's living room was expanded.

George Limperis 415.701.2616



Cole Valley

\$1,549,000

This two unit Edwardian is in a popular location. The property works well for a single user who would occupy one of the units and rent out the other or, for two Tenancy In Common partners. Just move in and enjoy!

Shelly Sutherland 415.874.5014

Levi Plaza
415.738.7000

Van Ness
415.565.0500



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MAY 2009

May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: CLARE tells tales for children at Cover to Cover's story hour, 10:30 am. 1307 Castro. 282-8080.

May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: Bird & Beckett bookstore hosts CHILDREN'S STORY TIME Friday mornings at 11 am. 653 Chenery 586-3733.

May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: Yell "BINGO!" at St. Paul's Friday nights at 7 pm (doors open at 5 pm). Parish Hall, 221 Valley. 648-7538.

May 1-25: Linda Raynsford, Adam Cahoon, and Nicholas Coley exhibit ARTWORK at Art-Zone 461 Gallery. Wed.-Sun., noon-6 pm. 461 Valencia 441-8680; www.artzone461.com.

May 1-26: Art exhibit "NANCI REESE + Two" includes work by Greg Carlisle and Arnold Bennetti. Tues.-Fri., 8 am-4 pm. Gallery Sanchez, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 282-7798.

May 1-29: Noe Valley SENIDR CENTER serves hot lunches for people over 60, weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-1030.

May 1-29: Maria Tam teaches a YIJIN TAI CHI class at Upper Noe Rec Center on Wednesdays and Fridays. 7-8:30 pm. Day & Sanchez. 828-9436.

May 1-30: OVEREATERS ANONYMDS meets Monday through Saturday, 7 to 8 am. 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

May 1-30: SECESSION ART & Design hosts a show of eco-conscious art and fashion from local artists and artisans. Tue., Thurs.-Sat., noon-7 pm. 3361 Mission. 279-3058; www.secessionsf.com.

May 1-June 6: ARTWDRK by Alvarado students will be on display at the Noe Valley office of Hill & Co. 3899 24th. 824-1100.

May 1-June 17: Creativity Explored hosts "REPETITION," an exhibit by eight gallery artists. 3245 16th. 863-2108; www.creativityexplored.org.

May 1-31: FIRST BODK San Francisco invites donations of new or used children's books; dropoff points are Noe Valley Ministry, Starbucks, and Wells Fargo Bank on 24th. www.firstbooks.blogspot.com.

May 2-16: Observe GREAT BLUE HERONS and their chicks at Stow Lake from 10 am to 1 pm; naturalists lead walks (one adult, one family) from 10:30 to noon. Golden Gate Park. 387-9160; www.sfnature.org.

May 2-17: The Young Performers Theater presents *MADELINE and the Gypsies*. Sat., 1 pm; Sun., 1 & 3 pm. Fort Mason, Building C, Room 300. 346-5550; www.ypt.org

May 3 & 17: SF City Guides leads free WALKING TOURS of Noe Valley on first and third Sundays. 1-3 pm. Meet at the library, 451 Jersey. 557-4266; www.sfcityguides.org.

May 3 & June 7: Rocket DOG RESCUE shows off needy dogs. Noon-4 pm. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th. 642-4786.

May 3-31: The Bliss Bar Sunday Afternoon JAZZ SERIES features pianist Larry Vuckovich and guest artists Noel Jewkes (May 3), Kim Nalley (May 10), Vince Delgado (May 17), Frank Jackson (May 24), and Joe Massey (May 31). 4:30-7:30 pm. 4026 24th. 826-6200; www.blissbarf.com.

May 4, 11, 18 & 25: Infants and crawlers are invited to sing in English and Spanish at BILINGUAL BABY PLAY at Mission Library. 1:10 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

May 4, 11, 18, 25 & June 1: Just Awesome! Games hosts MDNDPOLY MONDAYS, 7 to 9 pm. 816 Diamond. Rsvp: 970-1484; www.justawesomemegames.com.

May 4-27: Kids attend free TOT TIME at Upper Noe Rec Center. Mon., 10-11:30 am; Tues., 3-5 pm; and Wed., 3-5:30 pm. Day & Sanchez. 695-5011 or 970-8061.

May 4-28: Children in grades K-7 can get HOMEWORK help at the Mission Library Monday through Thursday, 4-6 pm. 300 Bartlett. 355-2800.

May 5: Martin Koppel tells "the story of the three Chinese-Cuban generals in the Cuban Revolution," as part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at City College. Free event. Mission Campus, 1125 Valencia, Fourth Floor. 7-8:15 pm. 239-3580.

May 5, 12, 19 & 26: The 24th Street FARMERS' MARKET opens on Tuesdays from 3 to 7 pm. Bell Market/Whole Foods parking lot, 3950 24th.

May 5, 12, 19 & 26: The Noe Valley Library sponsors TODDLER TALES, for kids 18 to 36 months, 10:15 am, and preschool STDRY TIME, 11 am. 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.slpl.org.

May 5, 12, 19 & 26: Sing along with Patrick Sosa at Phoenix Books' Tuesday-morning STORY HOUR, for newborns to age 4. 10 am. 3850 24th. 821-3477.

May 5, 12, 19 & 26: Chris Sequeira offers classes in Oigong and TAI CHI, 10:15 am to noon at Walter Haas Playground, and Tuesdays, 6 to 7:30 pm at Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Register: 773-8185.

May 5, 12, 19 & 26: Kadampa Buddhist Temple holds MEDITATION on Tuesdays. 7-8:30 pm. 3324 17th. 503-1187.

May 5-31: City Guide Dan Sullivan leads "Castro: Tales of the Village," a WALKING TOUR of the Castro, every Tuesday and Sunday. Meet at 11 am at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro & Market) under the rainbow flag. 557-4266; www.sfcityguides.org.

May 6: KIKI-YO starts a four-week meditation class. Wed., 7-7:45 am. 605B Chenery. 415-587-5454.

May 6: SF Center for the Book holds a CDCKTAIL PARTY and silent auction, featuring books and posters by more than 100 artists. 6:30-9:30 pm. 300 De Haro. Reservations: 565-0545, ext. 16; nina@sfcb.org.

May 6 & 23: The Friends of the Urban Forest offer CITIZEN FORESTER training classes Wednesdays (lecture, 6:30 to 8:30 pm) and Saturdays (field work, 9 am to 1 pm). 561-6890, ext. 102; www.fuf.net.

May 6, 13, 20 & 27: MoBu Studio hosts PAL TIME-4-TOTS, a class to practice motor skills for mommies and tots 18 months to 3 years. 9-9:40 am. 1605 Church. 550-PALS.

May 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Upper Noe SENIDRS group meets on Wednesdays for socializing and bingo. Noon-3:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 970-8061 or 695-5011.

May 6, 13, 20 & 27: Eureka Valley Library's Wednesday BABY RHYME TIME, for newborns to 18 months, begins at 3 pm; a family story time for ages 2 to 5 starts at 3:30 pm. 100 Collingwood. 355-5616.

May 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Castro FARMERS' MARKET offers produce from 4 to 8 pm Wednesdays through October. Noe at Beaver. Merchants of Upper Market & Castro, www.CastroMerchants.com.

May 6, 13, 20 & 27: Just Awesome! Games hosts DPEN GAME night on Wednesdays, 6 to 10 pm. 816 Diamond. Rsvp: 970-1484; www.justawesomemegames.com.

May 6-June 3: A group for new ADOPTIVE PARENTS starts on Wednesdays at Parents Place; children welcome. Noon-1:30 pm. 1710 Scott. www.ParentsPlaceOnline.org

May 7: PHDOTOGRAPHERS Rondal Partridge, Philip Adam, and Robert Terrell discuss documenting 75 years of homelessness. 6 pm. 678 Mission. 357-1848; www.californiahistoricalsociety.org.

May 7, 14, 21 & 28: A Thursday STROLLER WALK starts at Holey Bagel at 11 am and rolls through Noe and the Castro. 3872 24th. www.noestrolls.com.

May 7, 14, 21 & 28: CANDLELIT YOGA at Kiki-Yo emphasizes deep relaxation. 7 pm, Thursdays. 605B Chenery. 587-5454

May 8: Deadline for YOUTH ARTISTS (high school through two years of college) to submit art on the topic "How Would You Change the World?" to the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts 2009 Exhibition and Contest. 2868 Mission. 821-1155. www.missionculturalcenter.org.

May 9: The Noe Valley Farmers' MARKET features Michael Schaffer at 8:30 am and Dennis Campagna & Friends at 10:30 am. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com.

May 9: 100 families take part in garage sales at the Fair Oaks STREET FAIR. First Book San Francisco holds a kids' book drive. 9 am-4 pm. Fair Daks from 21st to 26th.

May 9: Sybil Lockhart reads from *Mother in the Middle: A Biologist's Story of Caring for Parent and Child*. 2-3:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.slpl.org.

May 9: Local doulas and MIDWIVES gather on second Saturdays at Natural Resources. 2-4 pm. 1367 Valencia. 550-2611; www.naturalresources-sf.com.

May 9: Meet at Mission Playground at Valencia and 19th for a BIKE BUDDY best-routes ride from the Mission to City College, sponsored by the SF Bicycle Coalition. 2-3:30 pm. 431-2453; bikebuddy@sfbike.org.

May 9: Chef Joanne Weir's *WINE COUNTRY Cooking* captures the Mediterranean inspired flavors of Napa and Sonoma. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books. 3885A Cesar Chavez 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

May 9: Six CLAY artists unveil new work, including porcelain pant sculptures, at Ruby's Clay Studio. Reception: 5-9 pm. Hours daily: 10 am-7 pm. 552A Noe at 18th. 602-9409; www.rubysclaystudio.org

May 9: The Freedom Socialist Party celebrates MAY DAY with a dinner and screening of two documentaries about "The Power of Strikes." 6 pm. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin. 864-1278.

May 9: The Glen Park Library hosts a SUSHI BEADS class, making felted balls for jewelry and mobiles, for teens and adults. 6:30-7:30 pm. 2825 Diamond. 355-2858.

May 9: Alt folk-pop duo the BITTERSWEETS performs at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238. www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

May 9: The La Tania FLAMENCO Dance School performs a students show, "Punta y Tacon." 8-9:30 pm. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 793-0939; www.latania-flamenco.com.

May 9, 10, 15 & 16: The Marsh Youth Theater presents *Ciribirin*, a MUSICAL about Italian immigrants in California. May 9 & 10, 3 pm; May 15, 7:30 pm; May 16, 2 pm. 1062 Valencia. 800-838-3006; www.themarsh.org.

May 10: SUNDAY STREETS highlights the Bay Trail, with car-free activities from AT&T Park to the Bayview Opera House. www.sundaystreetsf.com.

May 13: Cuisines of ITALY and the American South are blended in *Frank Stitt's Bottega Favorita*. 6:30-7:30 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com.

May 14: BIKE TD WDRK DAY, sponsored by the SF Bicycle Coalition, features energizer stations throughout the city, secure bike parking at Market and Battery (8 am to 6 pm), and a Bike Away from Work Party at the Rickshaw Stop, 155 Fell, 6 to 10 pm. www.sfbike.org.

May 14: Dpenhouse Outreach invites LGBT SENIDRS to second-Thursday monthly meetings at 30th Street Senior Center. 10 am. 225 30th. 296-8995.



OMNIVORE BOOKS ON FOOD EVENTS MAY 2009

SAT
MAY
9

JOANNE WEIR • 3:00-4:00 PM • FREE
Wine Country Cooking. Ms. Weir presents a lifestyle of casual yet gracious eating, drinking, and entertaining. Join us.

WED
MAY
13

FRANK STITT • 6:30-7:30 PM • FREE
Frank Stitt's Bottega Favorita. In this companion to his first best-selling cookbook, the beloved Southern chef travels to Italy and brings the best of the Mediterranean home to us.

SAT
MAY
16

JUDY RODGERS • 3:00-4:00 PM • FREE
The Zuni Cafe Cookbook. Owner of the Zuni Cafe, Ms. Rodgers will discuss her illustrious career and restaurant.

SUN
MAY
17

YARA ROBERTS • 3:00-4:00 PM • FREE
The Brazilian Table. Master chef Yara Castro Roberts is one of Brazil's most forthright advocates of its lifestyle and cuisine.

THRS
MAY
28

MATT LEWIS & RENATO POLIAFITO • 6:00-7:00 PM
FREE • *Baked: New Frontiers in Baking*. This book is hip, smart, and unimimidating; it is a love affair with baking.

SAT
MAY
30

PETER HERTZMAN • 3:00-4:00 PM • FREE
Knife Skills Illustrated. Peter will lead us through some basic skills discussed in his book. Learn to chop, mince, slice & more.

SAT
JUNE
6

DEBORAH MADISON • 3:00-4:00 PM • FREE
What We Eat When We Eat Alone. Ms. Madison set out to learn what people chew on when there isn't anyone else around, & the responses are surprising. Come find out what she learned.

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10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Late Night Menu until 1:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday

Sunday Night
Bar Trivia
- Prizes

CALENDAR

May 14: Radical Women celebrates ASIAN PACIFIC HERITAGE month at its monthly meeting, beginning with a spring buffet at 6:15 pm. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin. 864-1278, www.radicalwomen.org

May 14: Koch Landscape Architects will attend a community meeting on Dolores Park PLAYGROUND renovation, sponsored by Friends of Dolores Park Playground with SF Rec & Park. 6:30-8:30 pm. Mission High School, Doiores & 18th. www.friendsofdolorespark.org

May 14-17: Teen DANCERS from SF's School of the Arts perform "Re-Inventing Space." Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 345-7575; www.fortmason.org/boxoffice

May 14-28: The Roxie Film Center hosts "I Wake Up Dreaming," a B-FILM NDIR. FESTIVAL. 3117 16th. 863-1087; www.roxie.com

May 16: Sandy Ross (8:30 am) and Devils Slide (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

May 16: The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association sponsors a SIDE-WALK SALE featuring home businesses and local stores. 10 am-2 pm. 24th/Church Sts. Carol, 699-1045, or Gwen, 509-6261.

May 16: The SF SPCA hosts an ART AUCTION to benefit its Animal Assisted Therapy Programs. Silent auction and viewing. 10:30 am-2:30 pm; art auction, 3 pm. 201 Alabama. 554-3000; www.sfspca.org

May 16: CARNIVAL at Alvarado School features entertainment, food, games, and a "paint-in" of a butterfly and insect mural. 11 am-3 pm. 625 Douglass. 695-5695.

May 16: The first annual LIFE IS GDDD Festival to benefit Project Joy begins with a 3K Trail of Smiles, and includes games, activities, and music by the Sippy Cups. 11 am-5 pm. Speedway Meadow, Golden Gate Park. www.lifeisgood.com

May 16: Cafe owner Judy Rodgers discusses her *Zuni Café Cookbook*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com

May 16: The 19-piece Junius Courtney Big Band, featuring Denise Perrier, performs a staged reading and jazz concert, *The BILLY STRAYHORN Session: A Tribute to Musical Genius and Political Courage*. 3-6 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin. 557-4400; www.sfpl.org

May 16: St. Paul's Church hosts a "Fix the Floor" DANCE. 7-10 pm. Church and Valley.

648-7538, www.stpaulsf.org

May 16: BARRY GIFFORD reads from his new novel, *Imagination of the Heart: Book Seven of the Story of Sailor and Lula*. 7:30 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733.

May 17: Yara Castro Roberts discusses regional South American cooking in *The BRAZILIAN Table* at Omnivore Books. 3-4 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com

May 17: The SF Arts Commission holds a public meeting to review the design for an ART INSTALLATION on 17th Street near Castro and Market. 3-5 pm. Eureka Valley Rec Center, 100 Collingwood. 252-4637; www.startscommission.org

May 17: Noe Valley Ministry offers a free JAZZ VESPER, featuring the John Calloway Quintet. 5-6 pm. Upper Hall, 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317; www.noevalleyministry.org

May 18: LITERARY DEATH MATCH 18 features readers Peter Drner, Ellen Sussman, April Sinclair, and Jesse Nathan. 6:30 pm. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia. 552-7788.

May 18: The "Bee-In" is a SPELLING BEE to benefit Small Press Distributors. 6:30 pm. Crown Point Press, 20 Hawthorne. www.spdbooks.org

May 18: Atlas Café hosts a discussion, "Better Drugs Using STEM CELLS." 7-9 pm. 3049 20th. 648-1047; www.sciencecafesf.com

May 19: FILMS of interest to children ages 3 to 5 are shown at 10:15 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey. 355-5707; www.sfpl.org

May 19: The SF Young Democrats hold a free VDLUNTEER SYMPDIUM, featuring hors d'oeuvres and a panel of 10 nonprofit groups. 6-8:30 pm. Le Colonial Restaurant, 20 Cosmo Pl. sfyoungsymposium@gmail.com

May 20: The VISUAL ARTS Committee of the SF Arts Commission meets on the third Wednesday of the month; open to the public. 3-5 pm. 25 Van Ness, Suite 70 www.startscommission.org

May 20: The Noe Valley Merchants Association invites all to a Small Business Week MIXER at Cooks Boulevard. 6-8 pm. 1309 Castro. 647-2665.

May 20 John Dillon discusses "The Autopsy of HEAVEN: Galileo, Telescopes, and the Beginning of Modern Science" at the SF Amateur Astronomers meeting. 7:30 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600.

May 21: SF City Attorney Dennis Herrera discusses MARRIAGE EQUALITY efforts in California at the Noe Valley Democratic Club meeting. 7 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, 295 Day.

May 21: The EUREKA VALLEY Promotion Association meets the third Thursday of the month. 7:30 pm. Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro. 437-9414; www.evpa.org

May 23: Diamond Moodie (8:30 am) and They Call Me Lucky (10:30 am) play the Noe Valley FARMERS' MARKET. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

May 23-24: The 31st annual CARNAVAL SAN FRANCISCO showcases Latin American and Caribbean music, food, and dance; festival Sat. and Sun. on Harrison between 16th and 24th; parade Sun., 9:30 am, begins at 24th and Bryant. 621-2255; www.car-navalsf.com

May 25: SF's MEMORIAL DAY observances pay tribute this year to WWI veterans and Americans killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Band music and Model A parade start 10:30 am at Presidio Parade Ground. Wallace Levin, 748-0613 or 554-6036.

May 25: Ann Hershey screens her film *Tillie Olsen: A Heart in Action* at the ODD MDNDAYS series at the Noe Valley Ministry. 7:30 pm; dinner Noe Valley Pizza, 5:30 pm (RSVP jlsender@webtv.net). 1021 Sanchez. 282-2317.

May 25: The Down to a SCIENCE BDDK CLUB hosts a discussion by Jonah Lehrer, "How We Decide," examining the paralysis of too many options. 7-9 pm. Books, Inc., 601 Van Ness. www.sciencecafesf.com

May 26: Ron Ross shows MAGIC LANTERN SLIDES from before and after 1906, at the monthly meeting of the SF History Association. 7 pm. St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond. 750-9986; www.sanfranciscohistory.org

May 27: Panelists discuss the state of HEALTH CARE in the Bay Area at the Older Women's League; co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters. 6-7:30 pm. 582 Market, first floor. 989-4422; www.owlsf.org

May 27: The Marsh Rising presents ANN RANDOLPH'S solo show, *Final Destination*. 7:30 pm. 1062 Valencia. 641-0235; www.themarsh.org

May 28: Brooklyn BAKERY owners Matt Lewis and Renato Poliafito discuss *Baked: New Frontiers in Baking*, at Omnivore Books. 6-7 pm. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com

May 28: Radical Women host a four-session discussion of liberal/reform and radical FEMINISM. 6:15 pm. New Valencia Hall, 625 Larkin. 864-1278; www.radicalwomen.org

May 29: Gerald Rosen, author of *The Carmen Miranda Memorial Flagpole*, reads from his new MEMOIR, *Cold Eye. Warm Heart: A Novelist's Search for Meaning*. 8:15 pm. Bird & Beckett, 653 Chenery. 586-3733; www.birdbeckett.com

May 30: The Noe Valley Farmers' Market MUSIC features Jude at 8:30 am and Dennis Campagna & Friends at 10:30 am. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

May 30: VDLUNTEERS can help weed Juri Commons Park, at a rain or shine workday; coffee and pastries provided. 9 am-1 pm. Blwn Guerrero & San Jose and 25th & 26th.

May 30: Friends of DDLRES PARK Playground host "Jammin' in the Playground," featuring Charity and the JAMband. 11 am-noon. 582-3774.

May 30: Peter Hertzmann discusses KNIFE SKILLS from 3 to 4 pm at Omnivore Books. 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com

May 31: Today is the deadline to turn in your game piece for NDE VALLEY DUEST, a scavenger hunt in the neighborhood. See page 4 of this issue of the *Voice*. Just Awesome! 970-1484, Video Wave, 550-7577.

June 2: LITOUAKE kicks off its 10th anniversary year with a fundraiser, "Cocktails with Canin," featuring author Ethan Canin. 6 pm. Broadway Studios, 435 Broadway www.litquake.org

June 2: The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 243 Alabama. 554 3050

June 3-27: City Art presents a group show interpreting the meaning of "QUEER" in honor of Pride Month. Reception June 5. 7-10 pm. Hours Wed.-Sun., noon-9 pm. 970-9900; www.cityartgallery.org

June 6: The Swinging GUITARS of Tom Huber and Mississippi Mike (8:30 am) and Devils Slide (10:30 am) play the Farmers' Market. 24th & Vicksburg. 248-1332; www.noevalleyfarmersmarket.com

June 6: Meet at Justin Herman Plaza at Market and the Embarcadero for a "Bullitt BIKE TOUR," cycling past scenes from the 1968 thriller. 11 am. 431-2453, bbau-nach@yahoo.com or www.sfbike.org

June 6: Vegetarian COOKBDDK AUTHOR Deborah Madison discusses *What We Eat When We Eat Alone*. 3-4 pm. Omnivore Books, 3885A Cesar Chavez. 282-4712; www.omnivorebooks.com

June 6: MERLE KESSLER and Joshua Raoul Brody emcee an evening of song featuring 25 guest singers and the Experimental Love Orchestra. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 454-5238; www.noevalley-musicseries.com

June 7: Board the historic SF Maritime National Park VESSELS at Hyde Street Pier free on the first Sunday of the month. 447-5000; <http://nps.gov/safr>

June 7: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC hosts its season finale with a silent auction and classical cabaret performance by mezzo-soprano Catherine Cook and pianist Laura Dahl. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 648-5236; www.nvcm.org

June 8: Stephen Elliott holds the first MONTHLY RUMPUS; guests TBA. 7 pm. The Makeout Room, 3225 22nd. 647-2888; <http://therumpus.net>

CLAIR DE JUNE

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the **June 2009** issue, distributed in Noe Valley the first week of June. E-mail calendar items by **May 15** to calendar@noevalleyvoice.com or write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., SF, CA 94114. Note: Noe Valley events get priority, but we'll consider items from all over the city. Thank you.



Art Explosion Open Studios Summer Art Series

Select Fridays 7-10pm
Free Admission and Free Refreshments

Come visit our artists at their open studios shows on select Fridays this summer. Over 100 artists will open their studios and join the featured artists showing in the main gallery. Find great deals on local artists paintings, jewelry, photography and more!

June 12th	744 Alabama St	"Important Enigmatic New Works Full of Mystery and Wonder"
	Sharaine Bell, David King, Bill Samios	
June 19th	2425 17th St	"Death by Color"
	Cameron Chernoff, Catherine Reed	
July 10th	744 Alabama St	"Urban Birdseye: Quilts, Places and Other Things"
	Summer Lee, Mac McNamara, Karen Slovak, Colleen Stockmann	
July 17th	2425 17th St	"Body Language: figurative art speaks"
	Emily Citraro, Georgianne Fastaia, Romulo R Nisnisan Jr(ROM)	
August 14th	744 Alabama St	"Arts Ecclectic"
	MacKenzie Davis, Mary Lou Hanley, Michelle Jader, Traci Zaretska	
August 21st	2425 17th St	"Line of Sight"
	Charles Keatts, Steven Scotten, Tim Svenonius	
September 11th	744 Alabama St	"Adventures in Photography"
	Keith Gidlund, Walter Hanley, Don Ross	

Buy Art at the Source... visit our website to see the artists works:

www.artexplosionstudios.com

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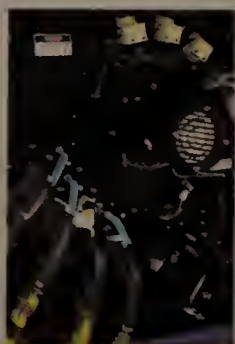
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SHORT TAKES

History by Lantern Light

The San Francisco History Association will present "An Evening of Magic Lantern Slides" on Tuesday, May 26, at St. Philip's Church at 725 Diamond Street near Elizabeth Street.

Association President Ron Ross will lead the presentation, showing 63 Magic Lantern slides from his own collection, including views of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition and the city before and after the 1906 earthquake.

"Magic lanterns" are the precursors to slide projectors, says Ross. Their use was first recorded in 16th-century Italy, though they may have originated in China. In the mid-1800s, itinerant projectionists traveled the English countryside, entertaining audiences with slide shows, often accompanied by special effects. The few surviving lanterns and slides are sought-after collectors' items.

Ross says just to be safe, he's bringing 21st-century technology—a PowerPoint presentation—to back up his 19th-century machine.

"These things have no cooling system," he says, and light bulbs have been known to blow up.

Doors on Elizabeth Street will open at 7 p.m. to refreshments, and the meeting begins at 8 p.m. (Parking is available.) There is a \$5 admission charge for non-members of the association.

For information about the History Association, call 415-750-9986 or visit www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

Rough Draft of a Book Club

The Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library is inviting book lovers who seek conversation and company to join a new book discussion group that will meet once a month on Wednesday evenings.

The group will choose the titles, avoiding very new books to ensure the library has enough copies available for those who want to borrow them, says Susan Higgins, adult services librarian at the branch. A facilitator from the community will lead the discussion.

Interested readers should call the library at 415-355-5707 or stop by 451 Jersey Street as soon as possible. Higgins will return calls later in May with details about the first meeting.

Higgins says the idea for the book club came from a patron. "We enjoy hearing suggestions from people in the community about programming," she said.

Since Higgins joined the Noe Valley branch in November, she has been trying



Hannah Prater and Chris Meyers, who make up the singer-songwriter duo the Bittersweets, will perform May 9 at the Noe Valley Music Series.

to expand adult programming to complement the children's events. She's averaged about one program per month so far, including a lecture and slide show on Vincent Van Gogh, a folk music program, and a play performed by a local theater group.

This month, Berkeley author Sybil Lockhart will read from her book *Mother in the Middle: a Biologist's Story of Caring for Parent and Child*, on Saturday, May 9, at 2 p.m. A neurobiologist, Lockhart was pregnant with her second child when her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Her memoir is both a scientific and a personal story, about a mind evolving and a mind disintegrating.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the reading.

Herrera to Update Prop. 8

San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera will speak on the status of marriage equality in California at the Noe Valley Democratic Club meeting on Thursday, May 21, at the Upper Noe Valley Recreation Center, 295 Day Street between Sanchez and Church streets. The public is invited to the event, which starts at 7 p.m.

The city attorney will discuss efforts to challenge the constitutionality of Proposition 8 in the California Supreme Court. Voters passed the proposition, banning same-sex marriage, in November of last year. The state high court is expected to announce its ruling on the measure's legality in June.

The Democratic Club notes that Herrera "has worked tirelessly for marriage equality in San Francisco and elsewhere," and that "most of California's largest cities, including Los Angeles, are now following his lead in attempting to topple Proposition 8."

Andrea Shorter of Equality California, which has assisted many in the LGBT

community in filing discrimination suits, also will address the meeting.

For more information on the event or the club, e-mail Molly Fleischman at molly@ffrsf.com. Note: The club will return in June to its usual meeting place at St. Philip's Church.

Life Is Good in the Park

May weather means a blossoming of free park activity, starting Friday, May 16, when Life Is Good hosts a free Feel-Good Festival in Golden Gate Park's Speedway Meadows from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The popular Noe Valley-connected band the Sippy Cups will join funksters ALO and folksinger Martin Sexton as a musical backdrop to a day of kid-friendly games and activities. Look for the usual picnic sports, like tug-o'-war, Frisbee, and double-dutch jump rope, amid some more unusual offerings, like seed-spitting.

The San Francisco festival is the first on the West Coast for Boston-based Life Is Good. As in past festivals, it will feature a 3K fundraising walk called the Good Walk for Kids. The 10 a.m. walk will cover relatively flat terrain, and organizers promise music and silliness to entertain young fundraisers along the way.

Proceeds will go to Project Joy, a national nonprofit that trains and supports teachers and childcare providers helping children who have undergone personal trauma.

Two weeks later, on Saturday, May 30, the Friends of Dolores Park Playground will host a free Jammin' in the Playground event for all ages, from 11 a.m. to noon in Dolores Park at Dolores and 19th streets. Charity & the JAMband will play their soulful rock melodies while kids scramble over the play structures.

For the scoop on this event, or on other Dolores Park activities, call 415-582-3774 or visit friendsofdolorespark.org.

Serious Music at the Series

The San Francisco-born duo the Bittersweets will bring home its blend of folk, pop, and country music to the Noe Valley Ministry on Saturday, May 9, as part of the Noe Valley Music Series.

The Bittersweets, composed of Chris Meyers on guitar, keyboards, and vocals, and Hannah Prater on vocals and guitar, found honey four years ago when Prater's deep smooth voice and Meyers' melancholic guitar-strumming earned a three-month stint on KFOG's Local Artist of the Month show. Since then, the pair has recorded two albums, written music for TV's *Men in Trees* and *Rapture*, and toured both the U.S. and U.K.

Encore for Music Series: A last-minute call from a fan prompted series producer Larry Kassin to add an a cappella group on Friday, May 15. Vocaldente hails from Germany and won last year's Harmony Sweepstakes at the A Cappella Festival held at the Marin Civic Center, a 24-year tradition. He says the group's five voices turn '80s rock or the latest pop music into the highs and lows of a cappella sound.

"Everyone we've had from there [the A Cappella Festival] has been really high-quality," says Kassin, who's put on the music series since the 1980s, organizing 30 performances a year.

Both concerts start at 8:15 p.m. and are held in the upstairs sanctuary of the Ministry at 1021 Sanchez Street.

For ticket information, go to www.noevalleymusicseries.com or call 415-454-5238. Advance tickets, priced at \$15 (they're \$17 at the door), are also available at Phoenix Books & Records, 3850 24th Street.

Curtain Rises at Ciribiribin

The Marsh Youth Theater's MainStage Performance Ensemble celebrates its eighth season May 9 to 16 with *Ciribiribin*, a musical about an Italian immigrant family living in California on the eve of World War II.

Directed and co-written by Lisa Quoresimo with Charles Eurydice Gray, the story is based on Quoresimo's father's life. Like the Japanese, the Italians were deprived of civil liberties in the United States during the war, and these restrictions force the show's characters to question the meaning of home. The music pairs Italian folk melodies with swing music from the 1930s and '40s.

Pronounced "Cheery Beery Bean," *Ciribiribin* takes its name from a 19th-century Italian song that was popularized in America in the twenties.

The musical's performers are in grades five through eight and have been in rehearsal five to 12 hours a week since January, says program director Emily Klion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

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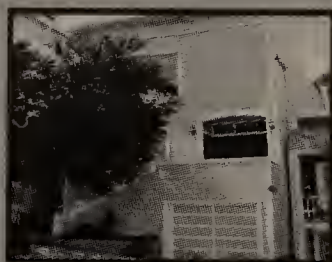
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SHORT TAKES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

"They develop incredibly," she says. "You see dramatic changes in their ability to sing and dance but also in their self-confidence as they start to present themselves on stage."

Performances happen on Saturday, May 9, and Sunday, May 10, at 3 p.m.; Friday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, May 16, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$12 for general admission and \$6 for students and can be purchased by calling 800-838-3006 or by going to the Marsh website, www.themarsh.org. The theater is located at 1062 Valencia Street between 21st and 22nd streets.

The Marsh Youth Theater began in 2001 as a group of 10 neighborhood children and now boasts 200 participants from across the city. For more information about MYT shows, or about the theater's summer workshops, call 415-826-5750 or e-mail myt@themarsh.org.

Free Volunteer Symposium

Interested do-gooders can learn who needs what at a free volunteer symposium hosted by the San Francisco Young Democrats on Tuesday, May 19, at Le Colonial Restaurant.

Ten local volunteer-based organizations will send representatives to talk about the kinds of assistance needed, from one hour a week of serving meals to training others to provide services. Attendees can sign up on the spot, as well as meet like-minded volunteers over hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and chitchat from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

The nonprofits represented will be the San Francisco Food Bank, Mo' Magic Foundation, St. Anthony's Foundation, Stern Grove Festival Association, Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, Opportunity Impact, Project Homeless Connect, Chinatown Community Development Center, San Francisco Boys and Girls Clubs, and the Koshland Garden and Alemany Farm.

All proceeds from food and drink sales at the event will be donated to the San Francisco Food Bank. The Young Democrats, "re-established" eight years ago, is largely made up of students, activists, and young professionals, the group says.

This is its first volunteer symposium.

Le Colonial Restaurant is located in the former Trader Vic's at 20 Cosmo Place, off Taylor Street between Post and Sutter streets. For more information, visit www.sfyd.org/symposium.

A Fair-Minded Flea Market

What has 100 families, 34 years of history, and five blocks of knickknacks? The Fair Oaks Street Fair and Flea Market, which takes place this year on Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Always the Saturday before Mother's Day, the annual fair attracts thousands of shoppers to Victorian-laden Fair Oaks Street between 21st and 26th streets.

"When you're looking at five blocks of garage sale, you'll find something," says Barbara May, a resident who helps organize the event.

In addition to selling their used furniture, books, kitchenware, and clothing, many residents host bake sales or face-painting booths. Kids especially love the event, May says. "There's stuff they can afford."

The sale benefits the neighbors' feeling of community, almost as much as their bank accounts.

"I saw this guy with a couple of truck tires, and he looked like he'd struck gold in the Yukon," said May. "I feel the same way sometimes."

Each year, nonprofits and schools set up booths during the sale to attract donors. This year, First Book San Francisco, a consortium of nonprofits bring-

ing books to under-served families, will accept new or used books, cash, or checks on the 200 block.

For a \$20 donation, First Book also will provide Mother's Day cards notifying the recipient of a donation made in her honor.

Older Get Wiser

San Franciscans over 60 are invited to sample the scholarship of Sixty Plus, a lifelong learning organization that hosts lectures, luncheons, and other social gatherings at San Francisco State University.

Members of the city's two chapters gather twice a month to learn about a variety of topics, from the changing structure of San Francisco General's Trauma Unit to the work of police dogs (complete with sniffing dogs). The Beta chapter meets on second and fourth Mondays, while Gamma meets on first and third Tuesdays.

Hoping to lure younger seniors, the group is offering a free lecture to anyone eligible and interested. Some lectures are lighthearted, others heavy, says Richard Lewis, the group's publicity officer. "It's all quite modern, even though we're often wrestling with it," he says.

Presentations take place in the Rosa Parks Room downstairs in the student union, and last 30 to 40 minutes.

Membership costs \$75 a year and includes the option of obtaining a student ID card for a small extra fee. The card allows access to the university library and

recreational and dining facilities.

"The great thing is the campus is part of the fun," says Lewis. "You go and mingle with the kids."

Sixty Plus also organizes small group activities like day and overnight trips and offers discounted theater and symphony tickets. Members who register with Elder College on campus can take as many courses as desired for \$55.

For more information and a membership application, contact coordinator Eileen Ward at 415-412-4684, e-mail sixty@sfsu.edu, or visit the Sixty Plus office at SFSU, 1600 Holloway Avenue, HSS 242.

Arts Ed Goes to Camp

An award-winning program for young artists, which had its roots in Noe Valley, is accepting enrollment for summer camp.

The San Francisco Arts Education Project (SFArtsED) will hold its 14th "ART-Summer" camp from June 15 through July 24 at Horace Mann Middle School at 3351 23rd Street.

A faculty of artists will mentor children in two age groups, 6 to 9 and 9 to 14, in the visual, literary, and performing arts. During camp, the youngsters will exhibit their artwork, share their writings, and perform onstage at the end of each two-week session.

Among new offerings this year are performance cabaret and art classes that focus on earth-friendly materials. The camp will continue its signature classes in musical theater, fashion design, painting and drawing, cartooning, and creative writing.

The cost is \$460 per session, with discounts provided for multiple sessions and for more than one sibling.

Ruth Asawa, a Noe Valley resident and nationally acclaimed artist, founded the Alvarado Arts Workshop in 1965 at Alvarado Elementary School. It was the precursor to SFArtsEd, which also is an entry point for children wishing to join the SFArtsED Players musical theater company.

SFArtsEd receives funding in part from the California Arts Council as well as the National Endowment for the Arts. To get more information or to register, go to www.sfartsed.org or call 415-551-7990.

This month's Short Takes were written by Heather World and Corrie Anders.



Five blocks of families will hold garage sales Saturday, May 9, at the Fair Oaks Street Fair.

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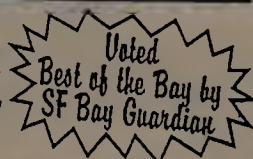


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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular *Noe Valley Voice* feature, profiling new stores and businesses in and around Noe Valley. This month, we explore an eco-minded boutique that opened at the southeastern tip of the neighborhood last summer.

ARARA
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Where do Brazil, ballet, and the Black Panthers meet? Surprisingly enough, at Arara—a designer workshop and boutique on San Jose Avenue devoted to earth-friendly fair trade clothing and accessories.

“Arara” means parrot in Portuguese, but the word is also slang for clothing rack in the Brazilian language Tupi-Guarani.

Since quietly opening last June opposite Mitchell’s Ice Cream, the store has grown to house an array of one-of-a-kind “reconstructed” items made by 20 designers and artists. In addition to clothing, the shop sells jewelry, shoes, and bags, many incorporating found, reclaimed, and sustainable materials.

“When I opened the shop, I was kind of just looking for a space to create. As time went on, it turned into a co-op,” explains owner Larissa Verdussen, a native of Brazil who started classical dance at age 6 and spent a decade performing professionally before relocating to the Bay Area and becoming a ballet teacher.

Verdussen’s Brazilian roots, dancing past, and commitment to socially responsible production are obvious. Incorporat-



Designers Andrea Lamadora and Larissa Verdussen (right) each have different styles, but their clothing mixes well with the other unique threads at Arara.

Photos by Pamela Gerard

ing leather scraps from local companies or skins of fallen animals sent to her from Brazil by her zoologist brother, the custom-fit leather belts and over-the-shoulder holsters she considers among her signature creations are made to keep cell phones, wallets, and other items secure even as the wearer hits the dance floor of a nightclub. Her free-flowing skirts and dresses reflect her interest in comfortable clothing that moves with the body.

“I mix body mechanics and my culture, Brazil. I make the clothes fit all types of unique bodies,” she says, adding that she will alter clothing to fit and create custom pieces to flatter a client’s body shape.

Last October, Verdussen expanded by welcoming a second designer to the space. Andrea Lamadora, a fashion stylist and clothing designer who lives on 25th Street near Castro, now shares the shop’s studio space to create the women’s apparel she’s produced under the label House of Mamasan since 2000. Lamadora also makes custom garments for clients and is in the process of launching Black Panther Clothing, a line of T-shirts and apparel featuring images culled from

“My clothes and the Black Panther clothes really fit [in at Arara] because the store is really diverse,” says Lamadora. “It’s a mixture of fabrics and designs from all over the world, infused with urban lifestyle,” she says.

About half the items in the store are created locally. The other half were made by emerging designers and artisans in other countries. Hip ‘n’ Verde tote bags from Costa Rica accompany hand-painted sneakers by San Francisco artist Max Albee, while recycled fleece tops by Kayo hang on racks alongside wrist stockings from Threads by Cho Cho, Dermafilia T-shirts, and iKohl dresses.

Handbags made of candy wrappers and necklaces of peacock feathers accompany Verdussen’s handmade earrings, rings, and necklaces featuring shells, bones, acai berries, and agate stones. Prices range from \$10 up to approximately \$500 for custom work.

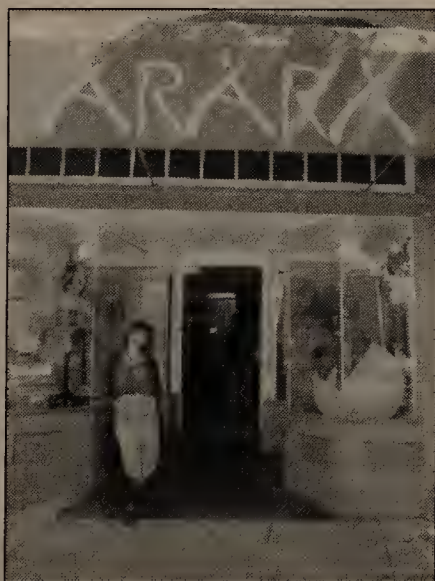
“They can always get something that can fit them, and we always have a price for everyone,” Verdussen says.

After Verdussen completes a two-year degree in fashion design and merchandising from Alameda College this month, she plans to launch fashion design classes for kids that will take place this summer at the store. Other unique elements of the boutique include Verdussen’s “house plant rescue” initiative—she’ll take your unwanted dying plants and give them new life in the shop—and events featuring store designers held in a garden area behind the shop.

Arara’s spring clothing collection was unveiled on April 30.

Hours at the store are 2 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday, 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 3 to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The boutique is open Mondays by appointment only.

—Lorraine Sanders



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Our Readers Write



Ethan, Jessica, and 22-month-old Caleb Elkind forwarded this photo from their trip to Southeast Asia in January. Behind them is the Borobudur Temple in Java, Indonesia — a major Buddhist pilgrimage site from the ninth century.



The Noe Valley Voice traveled all the way to the nation of Bhutan at the eastern end of the Himalaya Mountains, courtesy of Alice Middleton (right) and Eric Stevens of 24th Street. Here the Noe Valley residents hold up their copy of the Voice in front of prayer flags at the Tiger's Nest Monastery.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

NVDC May 19th Special Election Endorsements

STATE PROPOSITIONS

- 1A* – YES — Rainy Day Budget Stabilization Fund
- 1B* – YES — Education Funding
- 1C – NO — Lottery Modernization
- 1D – NO RECOMMENDATION — Children's Services Fund
- 1E – NO RECOMMENDATION — Mental Health Services Funding
- 1F – NO RECOMMENDATION — Elected Officials' Salaries

* Proposition 1B will only be funded if both Propositions 1A and 1B pass.

The Noe Valley Democratic Club *generally* meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St. at Elizabeth. Call 415 641-5838 for meeting times and location.

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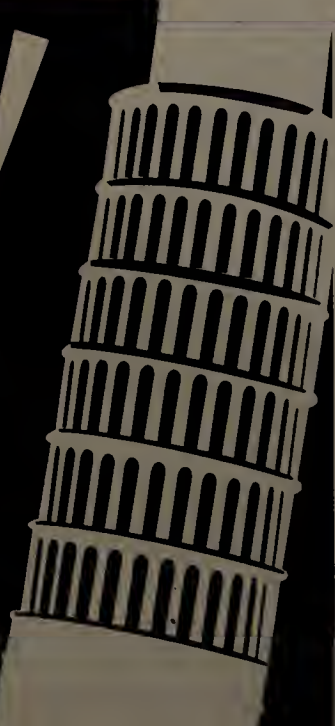
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More Readers



Former *Voice* contributing writer **Dodie Hamblen** (left), son **Jesse Lax**, and husband **Gerry Lax** display their favorite newspaper while at Trunk Bay, St. John, in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The family once made their home on 22nd Street and now live in rural western New Jersey. A photo by Pamela Gerard of **Dodie** and **Jesse** in Halloween costume appeared in the November 2001 issue.

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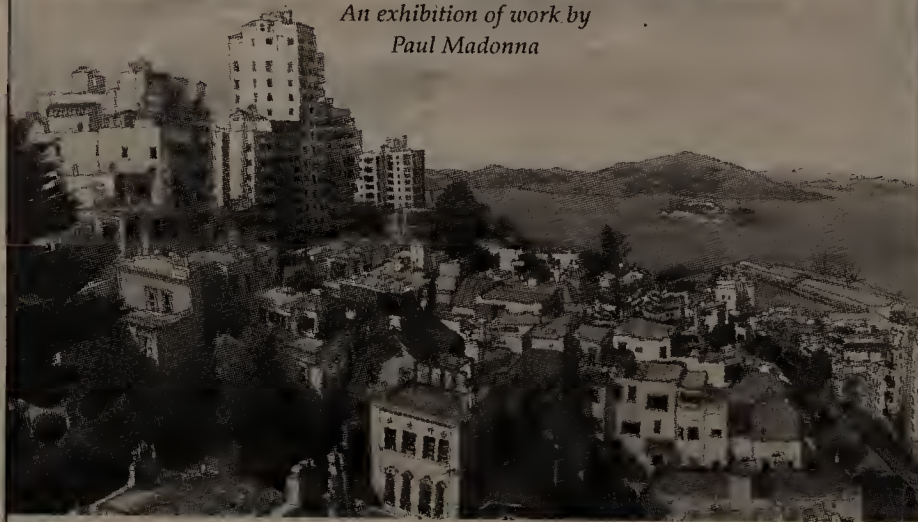
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More Animals to Blow Up. Jonathan Zambole, one of the Balloon Brothers is shown here serving his clientele on 24th St. in March.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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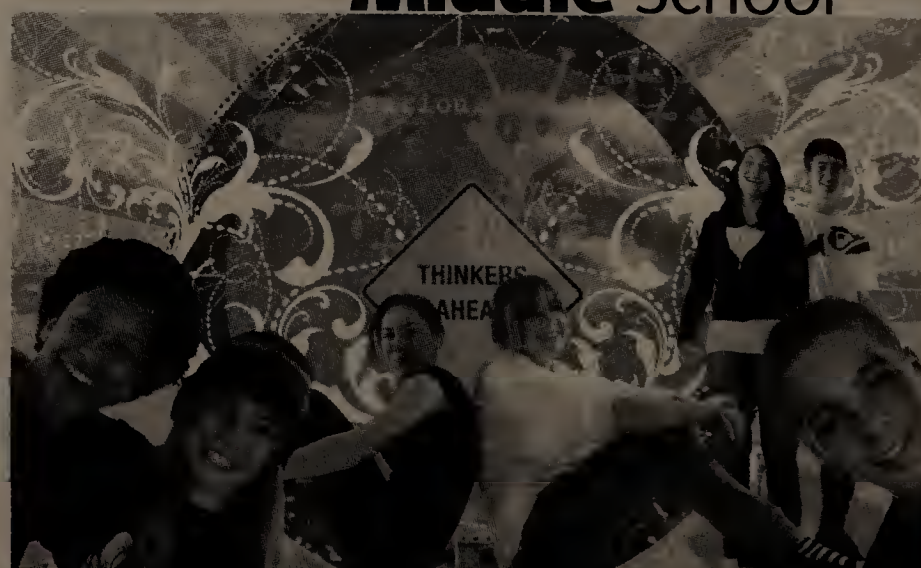
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SCHOOL REPORT

School parents share the news from Fairmount Elementary on Chenery Street and Alvarado Elementary on Douglass Street.

FAIRMOUNT

Two Nights in the Woods for Young Campers

Every two years, Fairmount's fourth- and fifth-graders, along with their teachers and parent volunteers, leave school for a few days and head north to Westminister Woods, deep in Sonoma County. There, they turn the woods into their classrooms. This year's three-day, two-night trip continued the school tradition of learning ecology and respect for the natural environment.

Working with guides, Fairmount's kids studied the environment of the streams, the habitats of animals, fish, and insects, and how the ecological systems of the North Coast woods are interwoven. They also learned how they can act as stewards and advocates for the natural environment they learned about.

The six classes were divided into small cabin groups with parents serving as chaperones. Everyone learned how to live and work with one another, as well as to help run the camp. The students worked in the cafeteria. After each meal, the students measured the amount of food and liquid waste they'd generated and drew bar graphs showing how they could reduce their impact by sending less waste to landfills.

The daytime activities involved hands-on natural science activities focused on animal and fish habitats, including collecting and analyzing through a magnifying device the various stream creatures. Students also engaged in trust-building activities and had free time on two playgrounds, one of which contained huge rope ladders and cargo nets to test their physical dexterity.

On the first evening of camp, students enjoyed a sing-along and heard a string of not-too-scary stories told by the experienced camp counselors. A highlight of the second evening was the night walk, where students learned how eyes adjust to the darkness without the use of flashlights. As they took their "solo" hike through the night woods, they listened for creature sounds and saw naturally luminescent insects along the trail.

Just before the bus came to take them back to San Francisco, there was a final session where the students shared their experiences and the appreciation they felt for one another and the Westminister Woods staff. A slide show depicting campers in all sorts of crazy camp activities, as well as in learning moments, provided comic relief, plus the chance to see how much the students had learned over the three days.

Returning to Fairmount that Friday afternoon were tired but happy students, teachers, and parents, who had spent three days experiencing the wonders of nature and rethinking how students learn about themselves and the environment.

FiestaVal Flying High

Fairmount's annual showcase "fun raiser," FiestaVal, was held on Saturday, May 2, at the school at the corner of Randall and Chenery streets. The crowd

enjoyed some incredible homemade Latin American food, along with games and jumpy houses for the kids. Silent and live auctions featured a bevy of donated goods and services from Noe Valley merchants and restaurateurs.

All of the school's arts, music, and dance activities are financially supported by money raised at this spring fling. So Fairmount sends a big thank-you to all those who contributed. For information about future events or to take a peek at the campus, contact Principal Mary Lou Cranna at 695-5669.

—Tom Ruiz

ALVARADO

Carnival Takes the Cakewalk to New Heights

Spring into Carnival at Alvarado Elementary School on Saturday, May 16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and celebrate the school's rich mix of Latino roots while playing games, painting murals, and getting wet.

At last year's fest, students argued over which game was better—the waterball race or the fishing game—but all parents could talk about was the food.

"There was a long line, but the food was amazing," recalls Maureen Faphimai. Meanwhile, her son, Louis, ticks off his favorites: a science experiment, the jumpy castle, and the cakewalk.

This year, Alvarado parent Nancy Velasco will shorten the wait by simplifying the menu, she says. She's organized parent Claudia Rodriguez and a handful of other mothers to make carne asada and chicken tostadas with pico de gallo and all the trimmings.

In addition, Carnival will have its first barbeque, adding to the festive atmosphere reminiscent of celebrations in Latin America, she says.

Entertainment coordinator Angelica Guerrero has lined up dancing entertainment, starting with two student groups led by dance teacher Zenon Bayron that will perform traditional Mexican folk dances. The first will dance Veracruz, and the second will show off the Guadalajara style. Finally, Bayron's

own dance group will perform.

Everyone is invited to a "paint-in," led by artist-in-residence Dan Stingle. Stingle worked with 25 third- to fifth-graders to create a mural of butterflies and insects for the wall next to the butterfly garden on the upper yard. The children will trace their designs onto the wall May 9, and it will be brush-ready for anyone to participate on the day of Carnival.

The children's art—from papier mâché to clay—will be on display in the motor skills room, vying for space with imaginative prizes for the cakewalk. Started in 2003, the cakewalk has grown wildly since. All parents are encouraged to bake. Veteran baker Kathy Sabatino put out 17 cakes last year, including a guitar, a Parthenon, a dragon, and several sports ball cakes.

"Every year, I see a kid who didn't win, so I bake more," she says. Parents often work with their classrooms to pull together a few cakes, too. Sabatino remembers her daughter's second-grade rock cake made shortly after the children had finished their rocks and minerals science rotation.

The PTA would like to send out its heartfelt thanks to those who made our bigger moneymaker—the annual Not-So-Silent Auction—a huge success. We forgot to thank Joe's 24th Street Café for the wonderful food, which helped create such a warm and friendly atmosphere.

"We're humbled that in these economic times our total surpassed last year's," says co-organizer Angela Danison, estimating a profit of \$80,000. The money earned at Carnival and the Auction supports the arts and science programs at the school, as well as extracurricular activities.

Finally, many thanks are due Hill & Co., which hosted an open house for Alvarado student art and will continue to show the works in its office at 3899 24th Street at Sanchez through June 6. We are lucky to have such a supportive business community.

All Noe Valley is invited to the Carnival, held on the school grounds at 625 Douglass Street.

—Heather World

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Alvarado Elementary School
Robert Broecker, Principal
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado
415-695-5695
www.alvaradoschool.net

Fairmount Elementary School
Mary Lou Cranna, Principal
65 Chenery Street at Randall
415-695-5669
www.fairmountschoolpta.org

James Lick Middle School
Bita Nazarian, Principal
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street
415-695-5675
www.jameslickpta.org



A Hike with History: Last month, about 40 people met at the Noe Valley Library to take a two-hour stroll through the neighborhood led by City Guides volunteer Calley Prezzano (pictured at left on 23rd Street). Proceeding up Jersey to Diamond, then to the top of the hill, and down Castro and Clipper to James Lick Middle School, San Francisco residents and visitors paused often to learn about the neighborhood's early roots and later development. Finishing up back in the center of the valley, the group disbanded in Nellie Alley off 23rd Street. The walk, dubbed "Noe Valley: A Village Within the City," is part of City Guides' program of more than 75 city walking tours sponsored by the San Francisco Library and the non-profit Tides Center. The Noe Valley tour continues yearround on first and third Sundays, starting at 1 p.m. at 451 Jersey Street. The next one is May 17. The walks are free, but donations are appreciated. For more on the tours, go to www.sfcityguides.org.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

Peggy Handler, MFT

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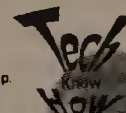
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MORE BOOKS TO READ

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Adult Fiction

- A successful banker in post-WWII Japan finds spoiled food, employee theft, and financial disarray when he goes to work at his cousin's discount store in the provinces, in Satoshi Azuchi's *Supermarket*.
- In *Night Navigation* by Ginnah Howard, a mother and son alternate memoirs dealing with addiction and mental illness, and grief over the deaths of a husband and a brother.
- Poet and playwright Marisha Chamberlain tells the story of a talented female composer during the early days of feminism, in her first novel, *The Rose Variations*.

Adult Nonfiction

- In *The Elephant in the Room: Silence and Denial in Everyday Life*, sociology professor Eviatar Zerubavel analyzes the use of silence in music, film, and politics.
- Charles Timony's *Pardon My French: Unleash Your Inner Gaul* includes colloquial and slang words and phrases not taught in school.
- Comedian and radio host Steve Harvey offers a guide to understanding the modern man, in *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man: What Men Really Think About Love, Relationships, Intimacy, and Commitment*.
- Cajun artist George Rodrigue compiles nearly 250 paintings featuring his iconic blue dog (modeled after his dog Tiffany) in the coffee-table book *Blue Dog Speaks*.

Annotations by Karol Barske, of the Voice staff

Children's Fiction

- A little girl hears stories from her neighbor about how as a boy he followed a shooting star through the sky and found the end of a rainbow, in George Ella Lyon's *My Friend, the Starfinder*. Ages 5 to 7.
- Hothead Red bullies Blue, until the numeral One saves the day, in *One* by Kathryn Otoshi. Ages 5 to 7.

- A tribute to the Pack Horse Librarians of Appalachia in the 1930s, *That Book Woman* by Heather Henson tells the story of a traveling librarian and a little boy who learns to read. Ages 6 to 8.
- *Twice Upon a Marigold* by Jean Ferris continues the tale of Zandephia's young Queen Marigold and King Christian, who work together to defeat the wicked Queen Olympia, Marigold's mother. Ages 10 and up.

Children's Nonfiction

- Stephen Krensky covers everything you want to know about *Ghosts*, including the history of spirits, how to make contact, and ghosts in books, movies, TV, and websites. Ages 7 to 10.
- The lives of a civil rights leader and a German-born rabbi come together in *As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Joshua Hershel's Amazing March Toward Freedom*, by Richard Michelson. Ages 7 to 10.

Selected by Children's Librarian Carol Small

LIBRARY EVENTS

Book Club Forming

■ The Noe Valley Library wants to hear from members of the community who are interested in joining a monthly *book discussion group*. The group will meet on Wednesday evenings in the library's program room. Participants will read and discuss a variety of fiction titles that can be borrowed from the library. Call the branch at 355-5707 if you're interested. The library will contact you later in May with details about the first meeting.

Mother in the Middle

■ Berkeley author *Sybil Lockhart* will read from her book *Mother in the Middle: A Biologist's Story of Caring for Parent and Child*, on Saturday, May 9, at 2 p.m., in the Noe Valley Library Program Room. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Toddler Tales

■ Treat your baby or toddler, age 18 months to 3 years old, to books, rhymes, music, and motion at *Toddler Tales*, offered on Tuesdays, May 5, 12, and 26, at 10:15 a.m.

Family Story Time

■ The library invites you to *Family Story Time*, a read-aloud program for children 5 and younger, on Tuesdays, May 5, 12, and 26, from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Films for Kids

■ Kids ages 3 to 5 will have fun at a half-hour show of *Short Films* on Tuesday, May 19, starting at 10:15 a.m. The program repeats at 11 a.m.

All events take place at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library at 451 Jersey Street, between Castro and Diamond streets. For information, call 355-5707.

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1-5		10-9	1-9	10-6	1-6	10-6
Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Branch Library 1 José Sarria Ct. (3555 16th St.), 355-5616 (Closed for renovation. Events held at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St.)						
Glen Park Branch Library 2825 Diamond St., 355-2858						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	10-6	10-6	12-8	1-7	1-6	1-6
Mission Branch Library 300 Bartlett St., 355-2800						
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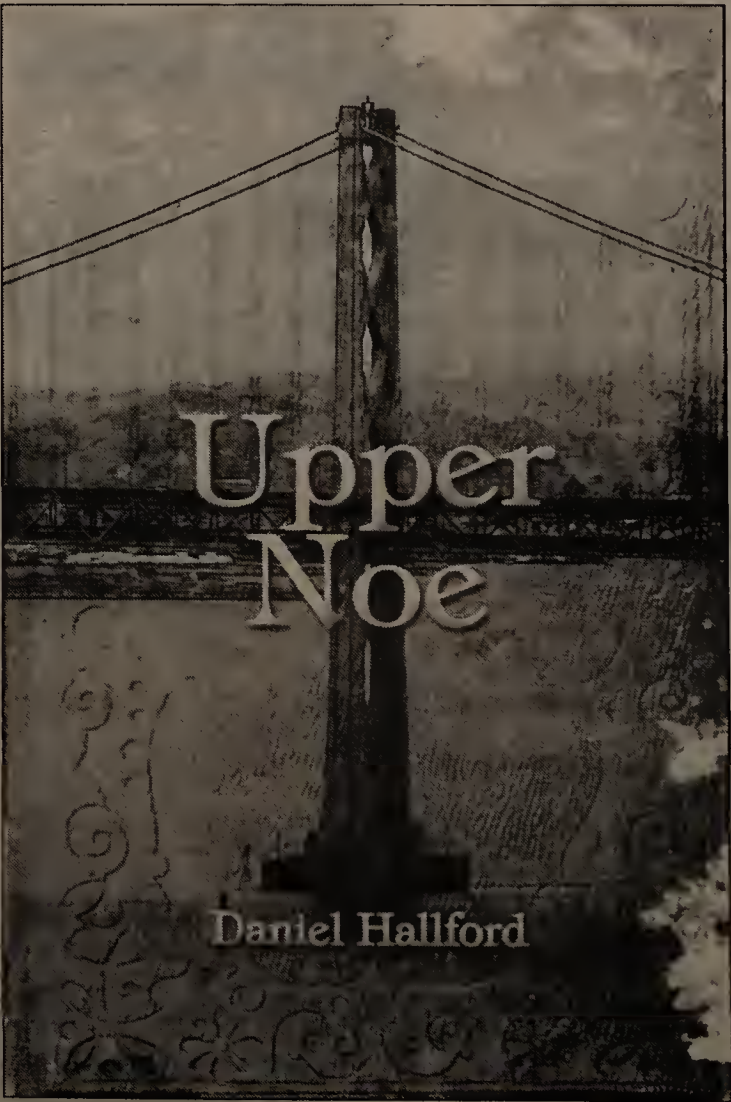
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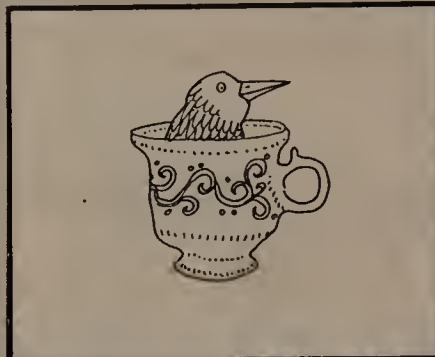
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Submissions: The *Noe Valley Voice* invites submissions of stories, poems, and essays. E-mail lastpage@noevalleyvoice.com or send manuscript, plus name, phone, and e-mail to *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you need your materials returned. Thank you.

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The next *Voice* will be the June 2009 issue, distributed in Noe Valley starting June 2.

The deadline for Class Ads is May 15. Note: The issue will be displayed for one month on our website: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

All the News That Fits

By Mazook

REPORTERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE: The Noe Valley Bureau of Investigation (NVBI) has issued a Mayday red alert, warning all citizens of our urban village that our First Amendment right to a free press is in imminent peril.

The problem, according to NVBI findings in April, is that “the pool of our nation’s news gatherers and beat reporters, pounding the pavement for news, is dwindling to alarmingly low levels. Noe Valleons may soon lose their ability to know what’s going on beyond our valley,” the NVBI wrote in a one-page report.

The NVBI based its alarm on several factors. One, the journalism staff has been dramatically cut at the *San Francisco Chronicle* (which has been losing \$1 million a week for over a year). Two, newspapers on doorsteps are increasingly rare. In Noe Valley, as elsewhere, the wi-fi folks are saying, Why should I buy the *Chronicle* when I can read it on my computer for free?

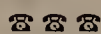
The NVBI contacted the *Chronicle*, but it refused to confirm its circulation numbers for zip codes 94114 and 94131. That information is “proprietary and confidential,” the *Chronicle* told the NVBI.

The NVBI notes that many of today’s newspapers, including the *Oakland Tribune*, *Boston Globe*, *L.A. Times*, *Chicago Sun Times*, *Denver Post*, and *Seattle Times*, are either struggling to survive or

totally on the rocks, in sharp contrast to the 1960s through ’80s, when print news publications had industrious investigative reporters everywhere and news bureaus flourished throughout the word.

The NVBI notes there are rumors circulating in the valley that the *Chronicle* may soon go the way of many other newspapers in the industry—paperless, relatively reporterless, editor-intense, and totally electronic, except for the Sunday edition.

Opines the NVBI: Who will be out on the beat meeting with Deep Throat to inform us about the Watergate break-ins of today? Everyblock.com?



NEWSRACK AND ROLL: One bright spot in the grim NVBI report was the free *San Francisco Examiner*, which appears destined, ironically, to become once again “the Monarch of the Dailies.”

“For us,” says *Examiner* circulation boss Mike Costello, “our circulation in the Noe Valley neighborhood has gone up.”

According to Costello’s numbers, almost 3,000 papers are circulated in Noe Valley each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; just under 11,000 on Thursday; and nearly 19,000 on Sunday. (The *Examiner* has no Saturday edition.)

Examiner Executive Editor Jim Pimentel is very optimistic. “We have about 50 reporters now and are looking to hire more, and we are hiring more advertising staff.”

Other possible survivors may be the weeklies. Many of them are sitting in the new news racks installed in Downtown Noe Valley in April.

“We have gotten rid of the 204 old individual newspaper boxes and installed the green pedestal news racks, which hold an aggregate of 158 boxes,” says Noe Valley Association director (and member of the News Stand Commission) Debra Nie-

mann. “However, many of the boxes are empty, since a lots of papers are choosing not to buy a box. The city doubled the fees to use a box, and a lot of the free papers like the real estate and free advertiser papers are not coming out in these times, primarily, I think, because of the costs of circulation. Times are tough.”

Niemann says times are also tough for those cherry trees blooming along 24th Street. “People are clipping off the cherry blossoms and taking them home for themselves—and that’s not right.”



THE MANE EVENT: *Lost in the Fog*, the documentary movie by Noe Valleon John Corey, about Noe Valley legend Harry Aleo and his champion thoroughbred *Lost in the Fog*, opened at the Roxie Theater on April 24. The film got great reviews on Channels 5 and 7, and in the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner*. Its stay at the Roxie has been extended through May 7, so hurry down to 3117 16th Street for the 6:30 p.m. daily showtime.

Corey says, “The box office has been real good. We’re almost sold out on the weekends, and our run could be extended once again.”

For those of you who don’t know the ending of the story, remember that after Aleo’s horse became a world-class sprinter, he turned down a \$12.5 million offer to buy it. In reply to the offer, Aleo, in his 80s, asked the rhetorical question, Why would I want to sell the horse that made my later years so exciting?

In other H.A. news: TV trucks were parked on 24th Street outside of Aleo’s Twin Peaks Properties at the end of April, with Channel 7’s Don Sanchez taking viewers back in time to circa 1952 for a tour of Aleo’s office. Of course, Sanchez pointed out the sign proclaiming Aleo to be the island of sanity in a sea of “latté-sipping liberal loonies.” Aleo passed

away in 2008, but that phrase will never die.



PARK PLACE WITH ONE HOTEL: Just Awesome Games, located on Diamond near 24th, is becoming a destination for many local families. They’re streaming in to play board games in the game room in the back of the shop.

“It’s been a lot of fun having games nights [from 7 to 9 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays],” says co-owner Erik Mantsch. “We have Monopoly Monday, Open Games Night on Wednesday, and Family Fridays from 6 to 9 p.m.,” says Mantsch. “We have been giving out prizes on Monday for the person who has the most assets at nine o’clock. On Fridays, we serve pizza to the families.”

One mom at the shop says she’s happy her son and his friends “are getting away from their computer screens and playing real live games.”

The number-one game these days at Just Awesome is Pandemic, according to Mantsch. “It’s a cooperative game where the players work together to save humanity from four deadly diseases.”

That’s a good game to learn, kids.



CONGRATS to our local restaurants Bacco, Firefly, and Incanto, for making the list of Michael Bauer’s “Top 100 Bay Area Restaurants,” in the *Chronicle* last month. (Totally cool, by the way, was that Firefly devoted a portion of its menu in mid-April to Passover dishes, like grilled Tasmanian Ocean Trout with Smoked Potatoes, Roast Vegetables Matzo Kugel, and Roast Cornish Hen with Horseradish Mashed Potatoes.)

Kudos also go out to Noe Valley’s state senator, Mark Leno, who was named Leg-

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

islator of the Year (2008) by California's National Organization for Women. Leno was recognized for authoring legislation to give same-sex couples the right to marry. The legislation didn't pass, though. Even Iowa seems to have become more liberal than "progressive" California.... Maybe next year.



MARKET FLUCTUATIONS: Locals will be happy to know that Bell Market's manager, Enrico Fornesi, will join the management team at Noe Valley's new Whole Foods when it opens this fall. Fornesi, born and raised in Noe Valley, lives on Noe at 23rd, and started at Bell Market 30 years ago when it was owned by Harry Misthos and Dominic Tintori.

"I'm very happy that I can continue to work in the neighborhood," says Fornesi, "and I am really looking forward to working at this great new store."

When Bell closed last February, Fornesi was transferred (as manager) to the last remaining Cala/Bell/Ralphs market in Northern California, at California and Hyde streets. That store will be closing at the end of the year.

Fornesi says many of his 24th Street customers have come over to the California Street store to do their shopping and to say hello to the several Noe Valley checkers who transferred there as well.

Meanwhile, a neighborhood group has been forming with an eye toward taking over the long-vacant Real Food store across the street from what will be Whole Foods.

According to neighborhood activist

Peter Gabel, the group will be scheduling a town hall meeting to have "conversations about the wonderful use that could be made of that space, including possibly a food court featuring local food and restaurant folks from the neighborhood, live music, and even a DVD movie theater for weekly film showings. The second floor possibly could be devoted to affordable housing."

Among the people involved with Gabel in this project are a well-known neighborhood architect, a developer, and a community organizer in the Barack Obama vein. Noe Valley Farmers' Market co-founder Leslie Crawford is also on board.

"We all agree that the right and best way to do this is through a genuine community planning process: to develop the vision, attract the resources needed for such a venture, and then to approach Real Food with a proposal that we can demonstrate is also in their long-term best interests," says Gabel. Good luck.



BIG BROWN: The UPS route in Noe Valley was "up for bid" last month, as the longtime delivery man, known affectionately as Sonny, had chosen to move to a downtown route with shorter hours.

Video Wave owner Gwen Sanderson, who often sees the brown uniforms at her door, leaked this item to the NVBI: "One of the drivers bidding for the route told me that Noe Valley is a coveted route and the only drawback, he says, is the number of heavy cases of wine they have to deliver!"

She said her source added that the "bid sheet" has been taken down and a driver should be assigned in less than a month.



IT'S A GIFT: Finally, for those of you planning a June wedding, please note that

both Cooks Boulevard and Global Exchange have wedding registries at their stores. At the latter, you can get a socially conscious gift, like a hand-embroidered wedding guest book made by villagers in Jaipur, India. At Cooks Boulevard, you might consider a totally practical set of measuring cups for the kitchen. Cooks, by the way, is doing a very brisk business in knife-sharpening.

That's all, you all. Before I go, here is a pop quiz for you to answer:

1. Does anybody know what the name of the store was that occupied Cooks Boulevard in the 1960s?

Second question: What was the name of the first automobile built in California, and where in Downtown Noe Valley was it built?

Ciao for now.

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Diamond Heights Community Association
Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
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Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association
Contact: Scott Wicner, President, 437-9414
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Third Thursday of January, March, May, July, September; and November, at Castro Meeting Room, 501 Castro St. (upstairs)
Website: www.evpa.org

Fair Oaks Neighbors
Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362
Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Note: The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is held the day before Mother's Day.

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Fairmount Heights Neighborhood Association
Contact: Gregg Brooks
E-mail: sflyric@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31059, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: E-mail for details.

Friends of Dolores Park Playground
Contact: Eli Merritt, 285-3774
E-mail: emerr@earthlink.net
Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park
Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground
Contact: Laura Norman
E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)
Contact: Richard May
E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.net
Website: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: First or second Thursday (call or e-mail to confirm), at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center
Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley Recreation Center and Park
Contact: Alexandra Torre
E-mail: noe_park@atorre.com
Website: www.noevalleyreccenter.com
Meetings: E-mail or check website.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Screenwriting Discussion Group
Contact: Kendall Callas, 821-1310
E-mail: kendall@microcounsel.com
Meetings: Monthly; e-mail for details.
Pre-requisite: Completed a screenplay or a screenwriting course.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"
Contact: noestrolls@aol.com
Weekly Stroll: Thursday at 11 a.m., departing Holey Bagel, 3872 24th St.
For details, visit www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Association—24th Street Community Benefit District
Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com
Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
Meetings: Third Wednesday, St. Philip's Church, 725 Diamond St., 7:30 p.m.
Parking available in lot off Elizabeth.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market
Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., on 24th between Vicksburg and Sanchez. Also, Tuesdays, 3 to 7 p.m., in the parking lot of the future Whole Foods, 24th between Sanchez and Noe.
Contact: Leslie Crawford, 248-1332
Mailing Address: 4101 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday, Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign
Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)
Contact: Gwen Sanderson, 550-7577
E-mail: info@noevalleymerchants.com
Meetings: Last Tuesday, Bank of America, 4098 24th St., 9 a.m.
Mixers: Last Friday, 6 to 8 p.m.; for location call or see www.noevalleymerchants.com.

Noe Valley Parent Network
An e-mail resource network for parents
Contact: Mina Kenvin
E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee
Contact: Maxine Fasulis, 641-5536
E-mail: nfasulis@yahoo.com
Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets
Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
Website: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
Meetings: See website.

See Jane Run Running Programs
Contacts: Shauna Nyborg, 415-401-8338; Deb DeFanti, 415-839-9393
E-mail: events@seejanerun.com
Address: 3910 24th St. (at Sanchez)
Website: <http://www.seejanerun.com/t-Training.aspx>

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)
Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission
Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
Website: www.tail-wagging.com
Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Third or fourth Thursday (call to confirm), Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.

St. Luke's Women's Center Meet & Greet



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Having a baby?

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The Women's Center at St. Luke's can help.

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- Low intervention childbirth practices (personal preferences respected)
- Continuity of care (pre-conception through postpartum services)

Thursday, May 28

6-7 p.m.

Griffin Room (Lobby Level)
St. Luke's Campus, California Pacific Medical Center
3555 Cesar Chavez Street, San Francisco


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Rob Levy 415-385-8011 or
Chrissie Emmons 415-652-6446

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www.duncanstreethomes.com

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Gael Bruno
415-351-4685

713 RHODE ISLAND STREET, POTRERO HILL



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415-296-2151

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Dee Saroni
415-351-4627

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415-254-0711 or
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SAN FRANCISCO MARIN PENINSULA

THE LAST PAGE

Walking the Border

◆ POEMS BY ATHENA KASHYAP ◆

walking the border

Come walk the border
San Francisco lies ripe
freeways unclench their fists—

Church and Dolores streets turn sideways
doors and windows open and hanging
prison walls crumble—the air is sweet!

Tonight each of us is homeless
we have nothing and everything to lose
in this single night's daring.

Come, my love,
the sky is purple with longing
together let us fall off the edge—

Mary's Exchange

So many clothes inhabiting lives! This blue coat wears
my body thin, limbs lost inside funnels of sleeves.
Someone still lives within its recesses, her smell
smudged in curved cuffs, flamboyant feather collar.
I feel borrowed, body snatched into the shell of another.
My mind, a sea of choices, travels the racks,
each a country of possibility of who I might become.
My eyes bore into the mirror's silver, keep from drowning.

home, a lonely

room in my mind
keeps calling to me to enter—

trace the path down the hallway
to mother (only in place

of her room: a stray cat
the watch you gave and I lost
on my thirteenth birthday)

sound of sea sucking dirty
milk from the factory

rain smattering windows...
voices echoing my name

you liked to play with pellet guns
smell of roasted aubergines

Bombay, South Hadley, Los Angeles, San Francisco
past lives dissolved in names

the getting outside of
and back in again

the friend you promised to be
vinyl interiors, 101 South, bus #89

the warm cave of your last
embrace; the having been

forever pulsing between
the swinging shutters of thought.

the corner store

The owner of the corner store does not know my name, nor I his.
He does not even nod when I enter, but stands gruff and still.
When I complain about the price—fifty cents for an onion—
he tells me “buy elsewhere.” But when he chats with his children,
just come back from school, his voice melts. For a moment,
the sound of soft clapping, clouds and rain takes me back to Mumbai,
the sea-washed sidewalks, bare feet slipping out of rubber slippers.
The J-Church screeches past. I look up, the children are gone.
Only mounds of tins, moldy produce surround us once again.
I pay for my onion and count the change. We are careful
not to let our fingers touch. Mountains of miles trail both of us—
we have to keep them untangled.

world café

I'm diluted, my skin grown permeable, breathable.
With Abraham in his cafe, conversation oscillates, a dance—
he suggests I try *dolmas* in his thick desert English,
I vacillate, trying to locate the exact geography of my craving.
My body succumbs, my tongue a compass for distant tastes:
crunchy Korean fish eyes, sugar-chili Gujarati vegetables,
Burmese floating soups—murky ponds with flotsams
of beef and vegetables, red simmering Kerala crab curries,
the salty sweetness of my lover's dark skin.
So many lives I've lived—I revisit them all and more in these cafes,
truck stops for travelers needing to shake off and drink in selves.

America

Throat of vase
filled with pebbles
from afar, and memories
plump and sweet, crossing over
continents, thirsty seas, generations
spilling into this living room, bodies
dissolving into each other, strains of music:
o sathi rey, aee, aee, tere bhi nabhi kya jeena—
Soulja boy grew up in this hoe, watch me crank it—
shifting this idea we had about you and me, these worlds
we've built out of paper—visas, passports, bank accounts,
collapsing at the center of time unfolding, the splendor of being—
no fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers, great grandmothers,
no one, not even our past selves, no one there to catch up, demand explanations.

painting in neighborhood cafe

The painting on the back wall crowds the room—
a belly-dancer's flowing skirt, pot-bellied men sucking hookahs,
paisley-pink Oriental carpets cut off at the gold frame.
The painting will not let me in. Even as the cashier's radio rattles on—
suicide bombs, shards of skin and bone. I want to get up and shake it,
flake off the strings of topaz, reams of carpet, yards of magenta silk.

Athena Kashyap has lived in Noe Valley for the past 10 years. She teaches writing at City College of San Francisco, and is also a wife, a mother to a 3-year-old girl, and an accomplished poet. The holder of an MFA in poetry from San Francisco State University, Kashyap has published work in *Spork*, *Squaw Valley Review*, the *Waits-Mast Poetry Collection 2009* chapbook, and the forthcoming international edition of *The Fourth River*, among other journals. She notes that many of her poems refer to specific cafes and shops in Noe Valley.

The Noe Valley Voice invites you to submit fiction, literary nonfiction, or poetry for publication on the Last Page. Mail submissions, which should be no more than 1,500 words, to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail lastpage@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number, and an SASE if you want a manuscript returned. We look forward to hearing from you.